

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 89 (HB 367)

2018 Regular Session

Pierre

Existing law provides for a State Seal of Biliteracy to be affixed to the high school diploma or transcript of a graduate who is proficient in multiple languages.

Existing law provides that to qualify for such a seal, a student must complete certain graduation requirements, attain certain ACT subscores, and demonstrate proficiency in at least one language other than English. New law specifies that this proficiency be at the intermediate-high level or above.

Existing law establishes methods of demonstrating such proficiency. New law modifies such methods as follows:

- (1) Existing law provides that passing a world language Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate exam demonstrates proficiency. Prior law specified a passing score for each. New law requires the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to determine the score, in consultation with the exam provider, that is indicative of proficiency. Prior law allowed school systems to use an equivalent summative test as approved by the state superintendent of education for languages in which an AP test is not available. New law deletes this option.
- (2) Existing law provides that completion of a four-year high school course of study in a world language or completion of a specified number of Carnegie units in content courses in a world language immersion setting demonstrates proficiency. Prior law required at least seven Carnegie Units and allowed them to be earned in language courses. New law reduces the minimum number of completed Carnegie units to four and eliminates the inclusion of language courses.
- (3) Existing law provides that passing a foreign government's approved language proficiency exam and receiving a certificate of competency from the authorizing government agency at the European B2 level demonstrates proficiency. Prior law allowed such certificates at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Advanced Low level or equivalent measures. New law eliminates these standards as qualifying measures.
- (4) New law provides that passing a nationally recognized world language proficiency examination with a score determined by the state DOE, in consultation with the examination provider, demonstrates proficiency.

Existing law provides that if the primary language of a student in grades 9-12 is not English, to earn the seal, he must meet an additional requirement relative to English proficiency. Prior law required attainment of the Early Advanced proficiency level on the English Language Development Assessment. New law requires a composite score of proficient on an English language development assessment that addresses all modes of communication.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 17:273.4(D)(1)(c) and (2)(a))