

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Graduation requirements can be met while students are enrolled in a Transitional Bilingual, Dual Language, and/or English as a Second Language Program. Language of instruction is determined by the program model and the Language Allocation Policy.

In addition, all programs for ELLs also must offer the necessary ESL and ELA instructional units required by Commissioner’s Regulations Part 154. For grades 9-12, ELLs are required to have units of ESL/ELA pursuant to the table below.

## NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### The following provisions must be noted:

- English Language Learners must pass the ELA Regents as well as other content area Regents exams.
- Any of the Social Studies, Mathematics or Science courses can be taken in the native language if available in the school.
- Content area Regents are offered in high incidence languages other than English. ELL testing accommodations provide for the use of oral translation for low incidence languages for which languages other than English Language versions are not available.

**Table I. CR Part 154 English Language Requirements For English Language Learners/Limited English Proficient(ELL/LEP) Students**

English Proficiency Level (based on LAB-R or NYSESLAT)	GRADES 9–12 Number of Minutes per Week	
	ESL	ELA
Beginning	540	—
Intermediate	360	—
Advanced	180	180

**Note: One unit is 180 minutes of instruction per week in substantially equal daily allotments.**

- Research suggests that many ELLs who arrive to the United States in the high school years require more than the traditional four years of instruction in order to meet the requirements of graduation. We strongly recommend that these students remain in high school until graduation or until the age of 21, and have put multiple supports in place to ensure this. By striving to meet high school graduation requirements, ELLs are afforded better educational, social and career options beyond high school, including access to adult learning opportunities that will help ELLs meet graduation requirements after age 21, if necessary.