

Compassionately & Consistently Evaluating Transcripts for Immigrant Students

Presented by:

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Watertown School District 14-4



Professional Experience

- Teacher for 16 Years
 - Developmental Bilingual Program
 - ESL Teacher & Migrant Liaison
 - Special Education Teacher
- Instructional Coach 2 Years
- Assistant Director of Special Services (4th year)
 - EL Coordinator
 - Assistant Dir. Sped.
 - Title I Director
 - 504 Coordinator



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Personal Life

- Two Children –
 - Zion & Luigiano
- Read & Write
- Spend time outdoors
- Korean TV



Leading with
Compassion

Refugees & Other Immigrant Children

- Trauma (loss of family members, violence, loss of personal belongings, war, isolation)
- Documents including transcripts, birth certificates, vaccination records (lost, stolen, difficulty to obtain)
- New country, new language / dialect, new educational setting, new home, new friends, new everything!

Leading with Compassion

Refugees & Other Immigrant Children

Four percent of South Dakota residents are immigrants, while another 4 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2018, 35,175 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 4 percent of the population.
- South Dakota was home to 15,647 women, 15,622 men, and 3,906 children who were immigrants.
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Guatemala (8 percent of immigrants), the Philippines (7 percent), Mexico (7 percent), Sudan (6 percent), and Ethiopia (5 percent).
- In 2018, 33,628 people in South Dakota (4 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.

Immigration Council, 2018

https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants_in_south_dakota.pdf

Top 10 Languages in South Dakota

- 1) Spanish
- 2) Other Native American Languages (government combines Lakota, Dakota, Nakota into one group)
- 3) German
- 4) Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages
- 5) Swahili or other languages of Central, Eastern or Southern Africa
- 6) Nepali, Marathi, or other Indic languages
- 7) Russian
- 8) Chinese
- 9) French
- 10) Tagalog

International Education Grading Systems

U.S. Equivalent	France	United Kingdom	Central America
Kindergarten	Grande section: GS	Infants year 1	Pre-Primaria
1 st grade	Cours elementaire premiere annee: 11 eme	Infants year 2, Grade 1 or Year 1	1 st cycle / Primaria 1
2 nd grade	Cours elementaire premiere annee: 10 eme	Grade 2, Year 2	1 st cycle / Pimaria 2
3 rd grade	Cours elementaire deuxieme annee:9 eme	Grade 3 or Year 3	1 st cycle / Primaria 2
4 th grade	Cours elementaire moyen premiere annee: 8 eme	Grade 4 or Year 4	2 nd cycle / Primaria 4
5 th grade	Cours elemntaire moyen dexieme annee: 7 eme	Grade 5 or Year 5	2 nd cycle / Primaria 6
6 th grade	Sixieme: 6e	Grade 6 or Year 6	2 nd cycle / Primaria 6
7 th grade	Cinquieme: 5e	JSS1 or Form 1	Ciclo Basico / Ciclo Cumun Primer Grado (yr. 1)
8 th grade	Quatrieme: 4e	JSS2 or Form 2	Ciclo Basico / Ciclo Cumun Segundo Grado (yr. 2)
9 th grade	Troisieme: 3e	JSS3 or Form 3	Ciclo Basico / Ciclo Cumun Tercer Grado (yr. 3)
10 th grade	Seconde: 2de	SS1 or Form 4	Ciclo Diversifcado / Bachillerato Primer Ano/Curso
11 th grade	Premiere: 1ere	SS2 or Form 5	Ciclo Diversificado / Bachillerato Segundo Ano/Curso
12 th grade	Terminale: Term or Tle	SS3 or Form 6 (optional)	Ciclo Diversificado / Bachillerato Segundo Ano/Curso

Country Categorization

Central American Education System	French Education System	United Kingdom Education System
Honduras	Ivory Coast	Jamaica
Guatemala	Haiti	India
El Salvador	Senegal	Nigeria
Nicaragua	Togo	Singapore
	France	Uganda

English as the Instructional Language

Cameroon

Zambia

Cyprus

Australia

England

Nigeria

Zimbabwe

Tanzania

Uganda

Kenya

Liberia

Malawi

Belize

Sierra Leone

Rwanda

Jamaica

Guyana

South Africa



Countries with 10 or 11 Year Education System

Graduate After 10th Grade

- Myanmar (Burma)
- Armenia
- Mongolia
- Philippines

Graduate After 11th Grade

- Jamaica
- El Salvador
- Nicaragua
- Iran
- Colombia
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Egypt
- Venezuela

Considerations

Federal & State Laws

District Policies

Local Procedures & Guidelines

State Guidance

South Dakota High School Graduation Requirements

Approved by the South Dakota Board of Education Standards in July 2018



<https://doe.sd.gov/gradrequirements/>

State Guidance

English Learner Students

Q1: May students identified as English Learners (EL) be excused from taking required units of credit?

A1: No. Students who have been identified as English Learners (EL) and who have an active Language Acquisition Plan are held to the same expectations as all students in meeting the base high school diploma requirements. See Disabilities Policy, found on the High School Graduation Requirements web page at <https://doe.sd.gov/gradrequirements/>.

Students who transfer into a district, in particular First Year in Country students, at an age that would allow them to graduate, may utilize ARSD 24:43:11:01 to determine the best course of action. The South Dakota Department of Education recommends that the local school district assist the EL student in determining which classes will provide him or her with the greatest accessibility to skills that he or she would need in the workforce.

State Guidance

- **24:43:11:01. Number of required credits for graduation from high school -- Personal learning plan required.** Required units of credit for high school graduation must be earned in grades 9 through 12, and students must earn a minimum of 22 units of credit.
- Local school boards or governing bodies may set requirements of credit beyond the minimum. Transfer students unable to meet graduation requirements set by a local school board or governing body because of time and scheduling constraints, but not due to course failure, may graduate on the basis of meeting state minimum requirements for graduation.
- The local school board or governing body may waive one or more graduation requirements for senior students who transfer from another state, who have met the standards in that state, and who are unable to meet the graduation requirements set by the state board because of time and scheduling constraints but not due to course failure.
- A student must earn a high school diploma as outlined in § 24:43:11:02 in which coursework aligns with the student's personal learning plan. All students in grades 9 through 12 must have a personal learning plan. The personal learning plan must document a minimum of 22 units of credit.
- Effective July 1, 2020, any advanced endorsement earned must be listed on the high school transcript.
- After January 1, 2026, the department shall review the required credits for high school graduation.

State Guidance

Q7: A senior transferred into our district from another state and will be unable to meet South Dakota graduation requirements on time. What can we do?

A7: The local school board or governing body may waive one or more graduation requirements for senior students who transfer from another state, who have met the standards in that state, and who are unable to meet the graduation requirements set by the state board because of time scheduling constraints but not due to course failure. (ARSD 24:43:11:01)

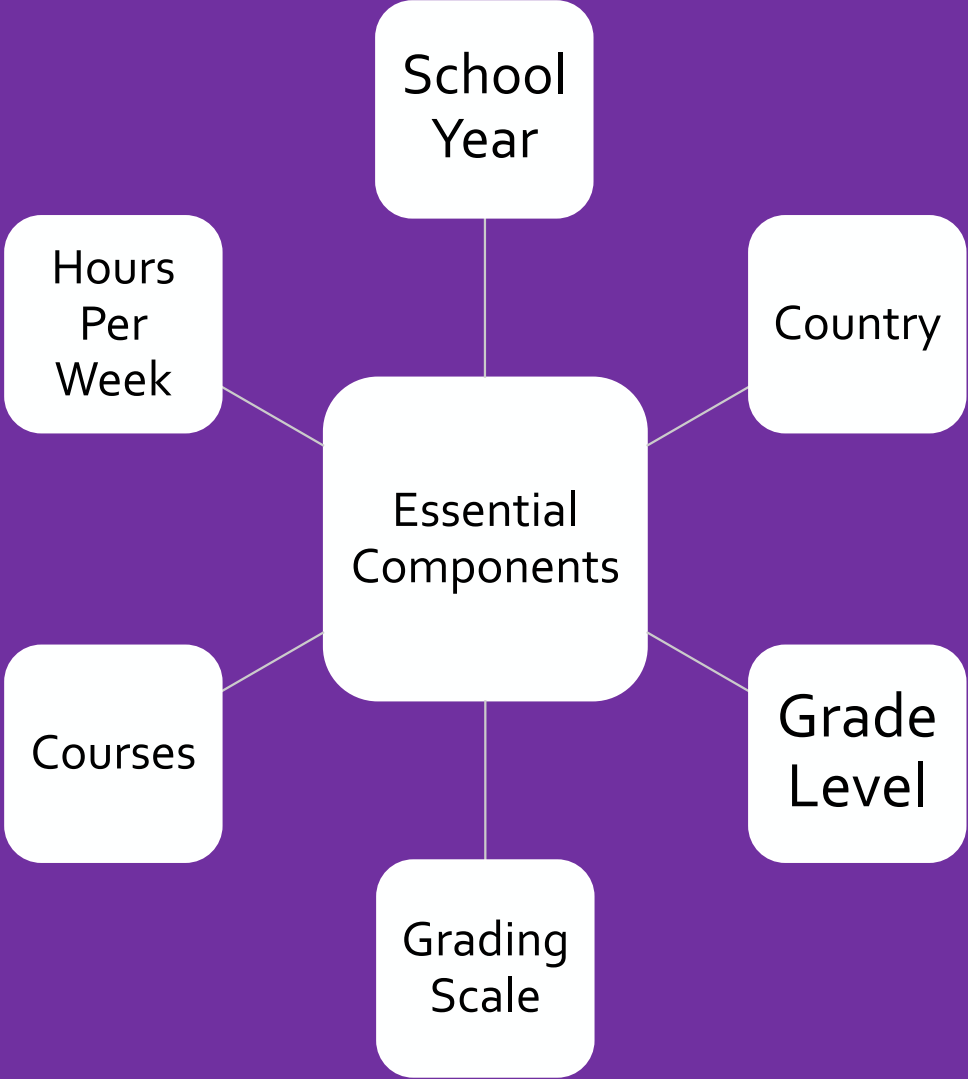
State
Guidance

Common Course
Numbering System

District
Guidance

[2023-2024 Registration Book -
Watertown](#)

Consistency



KS Transcript Evaluation Process

Guatemala

- Original Transcript
- Review Guatemalan Educational System
- Translate Courses & Document
- Interview Student About Courses, Learning Experience & Academic Goals
- Identify Equivalent Courses
- Identify Courses Met for Graduation
- Identify Courses Needed to Graduate

[Guatemalan Education System](#)

When
evaluating
transcripts
remember the
whole child...



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Evaluating Transcripts with
Compassion &
Consistency Will Lead to
Higher Levels of Student
Engagement & Success for
the Students and the
Program.

Questions