



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT OFFICE OF EDUCATION

May 1, 2014

UPDATE

The Current Status of the N.Y. State Foreign Language Exams & The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek

In recent years, foreign language exams have ceased to develop by the New York State. Foreign languages, however, are still considered a core subject, and students in New York State must take and pass a **locally** developed examination in a language other than English (LOTE) to receive credits.

The New York State Education Department has given permission to local educational organizations (BOCES) and school districts to **locally** develop *foreign language examinations* known as **Proficiency (Checkpoint A)** and **Comprehensive (Checkpoint B)**, which will be used in schools depending on local needs.

Specifically, the Commissioner's Regulations § 100.2(d)(1) state: "*Public school students first entering grade nine in 1990 and thereafter shall have completed at least **two units** of study in a language other than English, at some time, during grades kindergarten through nine*". Graduation requirements in LOTE also reflect the following requirements:

1. For Regents Diploma: Students shall earn at least **one unit** of credit in a language other than English, in order to complete the language other than English requirement for the Regents diploma (8 NYCRR § 100.5[b][7][iv][g]); and
2. For Regents Diploma with an Advanced Designation: Students shall earn **two additional units** of study in a language other than English for a total of three units and pass the **locally** developed Comprehensive Examination in that language which is aligned to the Checkpoint B Learning Standards for languages other than English (8 NYCRR § 100.5[b][7][v][c]).

The **Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek (Checkpoint B)**, which is developed by the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education, belongs to this category of "**locally**" developed foreign language exams with the Archdiocese as its authorized sole provider. The Archdiocese's **Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek** is officially recognized by the educational authorities of the State and City of New York, and is used in the NYC public high schools awarding credits to their students.

Therefore, the students of our District's parochial day and afternoon schools have the opportunity to earn foreign language credits and even a high school diploma with "**advanced designation**" by taking the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*.

We encourage, therefore, all parents to request the educational authorities to award the credits that their children deserve for their Greek studies.