

Act 502 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session allows certain computer science courses to satisfy the foreign language credit requirement for students who graduate with a TOPS University diploma during or after the 2026-2027 school year. The Computer Coding as a Foreign Language course title has been created to allow systems to implement computer coding languages that are in economic demand in their region.

**Policy Adoption**

Prior to developing policy language, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) conducted outreach to other states to determine best practices. For coding language courses to satisfy the foreign language credit requirement, the courses must be tied to a certification exam to ensure that students are receiving age-appropriate skills and to prepare them for advanced Computer Science coursework and/or college-level coding courses.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved revisions to *Bulletin 741 - Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators* and *Bulletin 741 Nonpublic - Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators* in December 2022. The revisions added Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science A, Computer Science, Computer Coding as a Foreign Language I, and Computer Coding as a Foreign Language II as an offering in the Foreign Language section of each Bulletin. The table below outlines the course offerings.

Foreign Language				
2 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 point Scale	5 Point Scale	
2 Units	061175		✓	AP Computer Science A
	061102	✓		Computer Science
2 Units	121300	✓		Computer Coding as a Foreign Language I
	121301	✓		Computer Coding as a Foreign Language II

The policy language, in each Bulletin, clarified that AP Computer Science A may either be utilized as a math credit or a foreign language credit. Additionally, the policy language provided the following:

Computer Coding as a Foreign Language I & II shall be aligned to a coding language approved by the Louisiana Workforce Commission to the Industry Based Certification state focus list.

- The instructor shall be certified in computer science.
- Students shall attempt the Industry Based Certification aligned to the course in order to receive credit for the courses. This can be taken during either the first course or second course.
- The school system shall report the student's pass or fail status, for the Industry Based Certification exam, to the state.

This policy is effective for Fall grade 9 entry 2023-2024 graduating in 2026-2027 and thereafter.