Dear Colleagues,

Many of you have sought guidance in this area in the past and here are some key points for your consideration when evaluating foreign transcripts:

1. When a student has combined English and native language credits, divide these up in the most advantageous way between English and foreign language credit (don't worry if your school does not teach the student's native language as a foreign language).

2. Understand that most foreign countries teach math and science in an integrated way, i.e. science can include both biology and physical science in the same semester/year and math can include algebra and geometry, for example. Award credits accordingly; that is, if there are three years of science on the secondary transcript, award three years of science credits.

3. SC allows the probationary placement of students in classes for home schooled and other students where transcripts are not available or not clear. Once students are placed in a class on probationary status and credits are earned, then credits for courses that would normally be taken prior to that class can also be awarded (for example, if the student is placed in Algebra 2 and passes it, then credits for Algebra 1 and Geometry can also be awarded).

4. Understand that "seat time" is almost exclusively unique to SC and that awarding credits from other states and countries does not have to conform to this rule. This means that whatever is called a semester or year in the former state/country should also correspond to that designation here for previously earned credits

5. I have verified this information with Darlene Prevatt who in charge of the uniform grading policy here in the SCDE. She can be reached at dprevatt@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-3477 and is also available to review foreign transcripts as needed.

Hope this helps,

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