



Mark P. Mondanaro
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents:

The financial instability and late budgets in Albany for many years has often forced districts across the state to “play the waiting game” to determine budgets based on projections. This year districts were forced to move forward, create a fiscal game-plan, and pass budgets even though there was no formal decision from our state capital on what the budget would be.

We now face the same uncertainty concerning LOTE (Language Other Than English) programs. While our district is moving forward by offering numerous courses in foreign languages, we are still waiting from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) concerning requirements and regulations for foreign language courses.

Regardless of what the new regulations may be from NYSED, **we strongly encourage** you to continue enrolling your child in foreign language classes. Our global economy is changing rapidly and there are numerous economic opportunities for those who are fluent in foreign languages. Students who can speak multiple languages are more marketable to prestigious colleges, universities, and the ever-expanding global job market.

We do know there are changes on the horizon concerning foreign language requirements. Right now students are required to have at least one LOTE high school credit before the end of ninth grade. Many students take these courses in 7th and 8th grade. No matter what happens in Albany, one option is that our district will offer a local LOTE exam at the end of the year. What has not been determined is course credits and how they can be used towards certain diplomas.

What NYSED has done so far is eliminate the Second Language Proficiency Examinations and the Regents Comprehensive Examination in German, Hebrew, and Latin. They have also:

- Eliminated all Second Language Proficiency Exams effective June 2011 (normally given at the end of 8th grade).
- Language requirements, at this point, have not changed: two years of seat time and one High School credit before the end of 9th grade.
- The German Regents Exam has been eliminated effective June 2011.

As a school district these are the pro-active measures taken to continue our strong LOTE curriculum:

- All 7th and 8th grade students should continue to be enrolled in a foreign language.
- Ken-Ton offers German, Spanish, and French. Students may meet the state requirements with any one of these three languages.
- A local assessment will be administered at the end of 8th grade.
- A local exam for German B2 will be given at the end of 10th grade.
- Students who successfully complete coursework in German, Spanish, and French and earn units of credit may apply those credits towards the requirements for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- We are expecting further guidance from NYSED

Our position is to “stay the course” no matter what regulations or requirements are changed in Albany and to strongly encourage you to continue enrolling your child in LOTE courses. Our mission is to offer challenging LOTE courses in order to help students broaden their global horizons, regardless of whether or not NYSED offers an exam or changes requirements. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the LOTE teacher at your school.

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District
1500 Colvin Boulevard, Buffalo, New York, 14223-1196
716.874.8400 Extension 5342 Fax: 716.874.8624
mmondanaro@kenton.k12.ny.us