

**Deaf Culture Question of the Week** – May 19 – 23, 2008

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How many states recognize ASL as a language for credit in schools?

Scroll down for the answer

Answer: This question is not that easy to answer. The laws in various states differ because each state sets its own education laws. In 2006 (the latest data) shows that 41 states recognize ASL as a language that can be taken for credit like any other language (Spanish, French, etc.) The following website shows each state and how they recognize ASL but this information is hard to keep current. For example, I know that the information about Georgia is outdated because Georgia just last year in 2007 officially recognized ASL that any high school student can take. I'm sure that some of this information listed as of 2006 may be outdated for some other states as well. But nevertheless it shows the status of ASL in the US. <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/InfoToGo/051ASL.doc>

Many universities and colleges also recognize ASL as a language that may be taken for credit. The American Sign Language Teachers Association <http://aslta.org> is also a good resource for information about American Sign Language.