Deaf Culture Question of the Week – May 19 – 23, 2008
Bill Newell, Principal, Washington School for the Deaf

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

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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 For example, I know that the information about Georgia is outdated because Georgia just last year in 2007 officially recognized ASL that any high school student can take. I’m sure that some of this information listed as of 2006 may be outdated for some other states as well.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.