

March 10, 2008

RE: AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR PRIVATE WORLD
LANGUAGE COURSES

Dear Sir or Madam,

Our Polish Saturday School in Derby, CT is 21 years old. This year we have 150 students who want to learn the Polish language, culture, history and geography. We teach Kindergarten, grades from 1 to 8 and High School.

Polish-Americans and Americans with Polish heritage are a large group here in Connecticut and in the United States and most of us also speak Polish. We all support our Polish Saturday Schools and every Saturday our children are happy and proud that they can learn the language of their ancestors.

Every year, Polish American Congress organizes exams testing knowledge of our students. To be ready to take this test they have to attend Polish Saturday School at least 8 years, every Saturday morning for 3 hours. The school year consists 96 hours of learning Polish. Our students have been taking and passing the test for 5 years now. The exam lasts 3 hours and students need to show their proficiency in writing, speaking and understanding contemporary Polish language.

Other students from New York and New Jersey take the same test and are being granted credits in High School. We want the same chance for our young people in the great state of Connecticut. Their hard work, desire to learn about their roots, rich culture and determination to speak more than one language in today's global world should be rewarded. Earning credits in High School would be great motivation for them to study even harder. Our intelligent young students deserve to have that chance.

Thank you,

Friends of Polish Saturday School in Derby, CT.