

American Sign Language Task Force

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MO Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

ASL as Foreign Language

- **American Sign Language courses, treatment as a foreign language, when:**
- **160.075. 1.** Any public school or public institution of higher education in this state may offer one or more courses in American Sign Language (ASL). American Sign Language shall be treated as a foreign language for academic credit granting and receiving purposes when ASL is offered by a public school or public institution of higher education in Missouri.

ASL as Foreign Language, Cont'd

- 2. Any student enrolled in a public school or public institution of higher education in this state that offers an American Sign Language course or courses as part of the school's or institution's regular curriculum shall receive academic credit for such course or courses if such school or institution provides academic credit for a course or courses in any other foreign language. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school or institution from offering nonacademic credit ASL classes as part of the school's or institution's educational program.
- 3. Any student enrolled in a public school or public institution of higher education in this state that offers an American Sign Language course or courses may earn academic credit for such course by completing the course with a passing grade or by demonstrating a proficiency in ASL at a level of competence equal to that taught in such course.

ASL as Foreign Language, Cont'd

- 4. Academic credit received for taking an ASL course or demonstrating proficiency in ASL shall be counted toward satisfaction of any foreign language or language arts requirements of the public school or public institution of higher education, including any foreign language or language arts entrance requirements of any public institution of higher education.
- 5. Nothing in subsection 4 of this section shall be construed as limiting the ability of individual departments in public institutions of higher education located in the state of Missouri from establishing specific departmental language requirements for majors that cannot be met by American Sign Language.

ASL as Foreign Language, Cont'd

- 6. The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Missouri American Sign Language Teachers Association shall provide assistance, advice, and guidance on the development, establishment, and teaching of American Sign Language courses in Missouri public schools and public institutions of higher education as needed and requested.
- **(L. 2005 H.B. 530)**

Missouri Statutes

Section 160.075(6)

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Missouri American Sign Language Teachers Association shall provide assistance, advice and guidance on the development, establishment, and teaching of American Sign Language courses in Missouri public schools and public institutions of higher education as needed and requested.

(L.2005 H.B. 530)

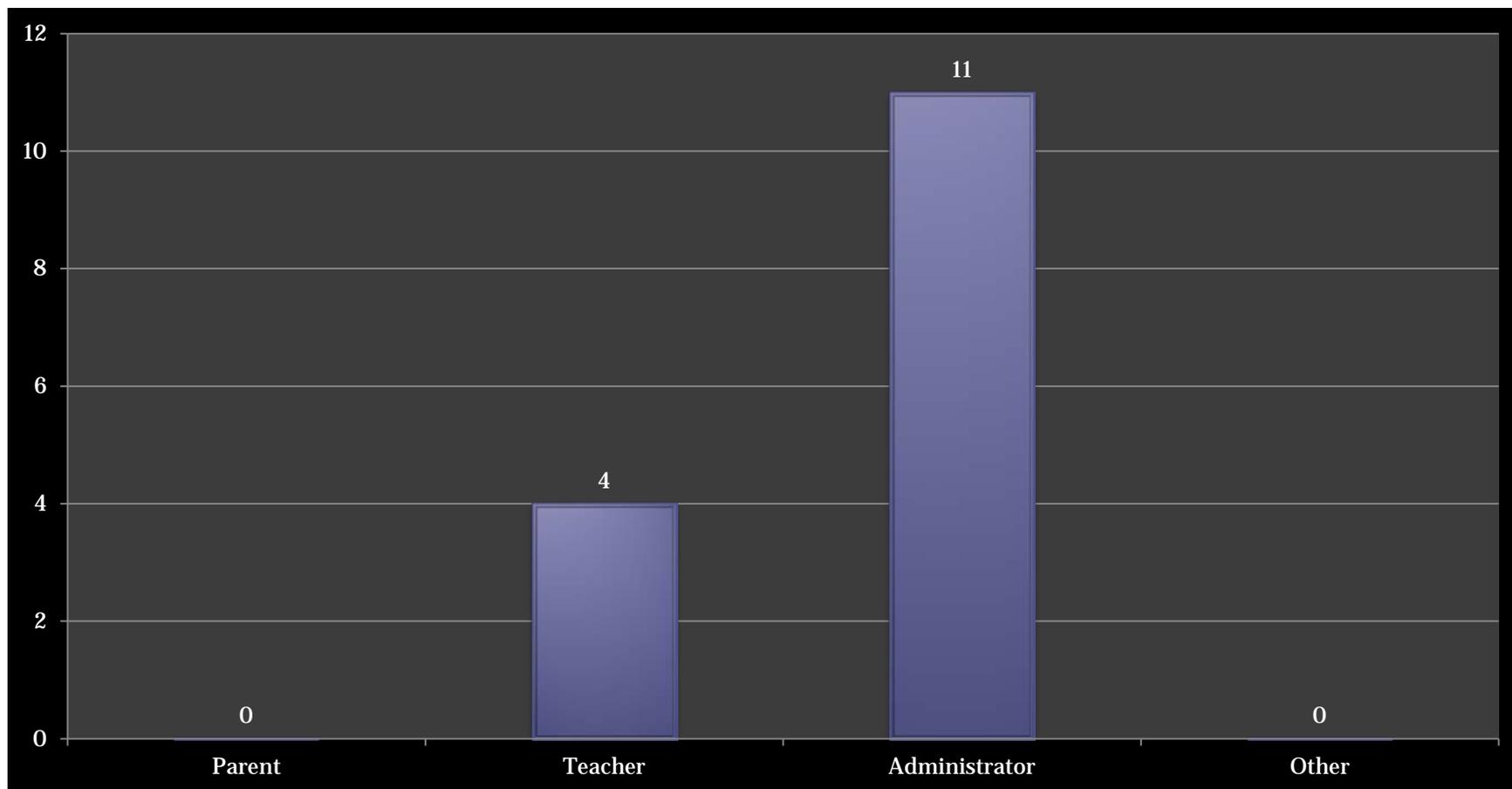
Task Force Goals

- **Set guidelines for local school districts to follow in hiring American Sign Language instructors**
- **Create a list of recommended resources on American Sign Language instruction**

Certification

- **American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) certification**
- **Qualifications: BA/BS or higher with some education credits (DESE Requirement)**
- **Degree including some courses within Sign Language Education**
- **ASLPI Score of 3.5 or higher**
- **Experience (Interpreter, Deaf, Native signers)**

MO Survey Respondents



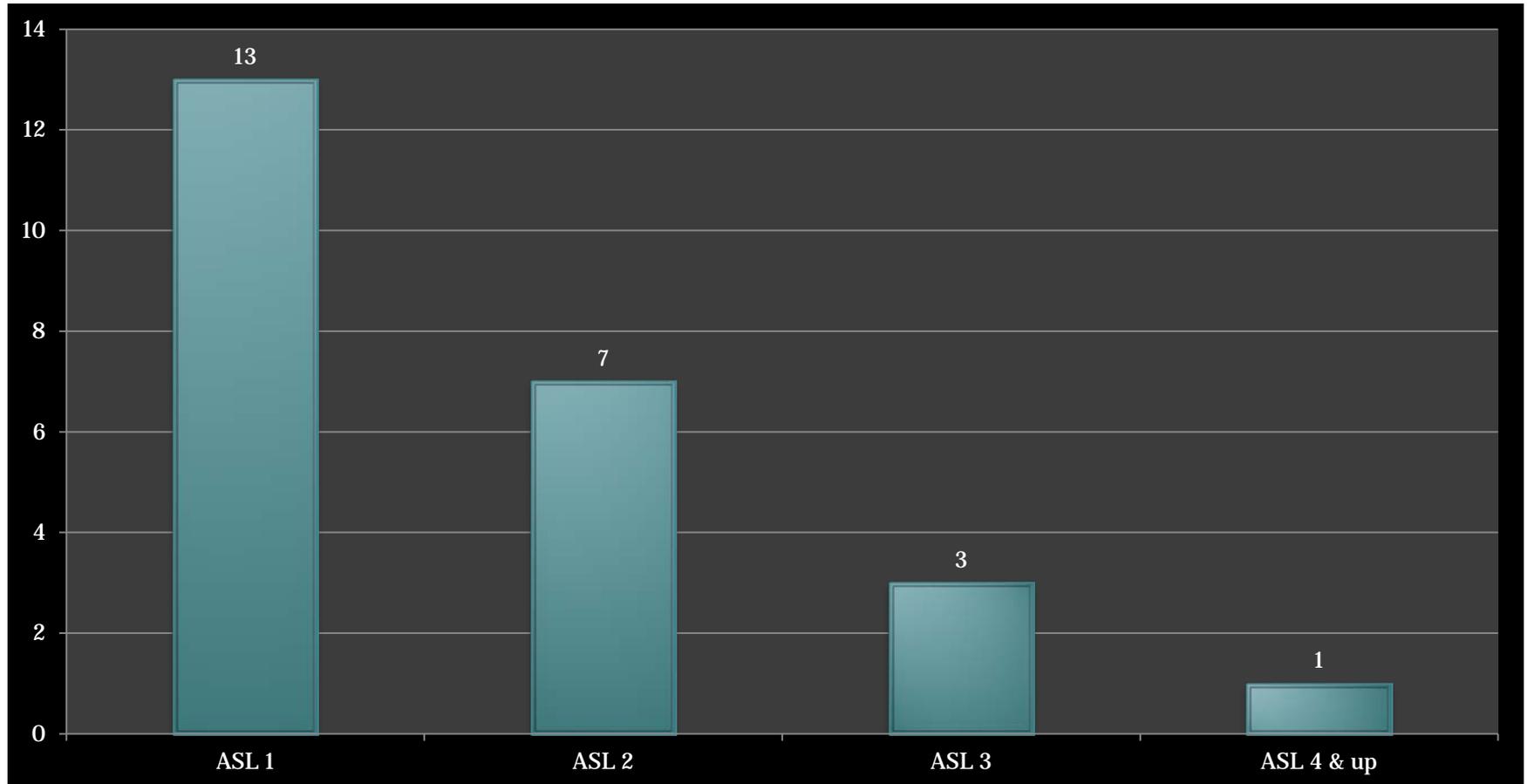
For schools that no longer have an ASL Course: Why was the ASL course discontinued within your school? If your school still has an ASL course being offered, please write N/A to this question.

- 7 people responded N/A
- “A quarter length elective class was offered at middle school when the district was an area for a special school district DHH program. The course was discontinued when the teacher retired because no other ASL interpreter had a teaching certificate.”
- “We have no need for ASL courses to be offered.”
- “I am not aware that we ever had one.”
- “No certified instructor and other language courses are offered.”
- “We have never had it.”

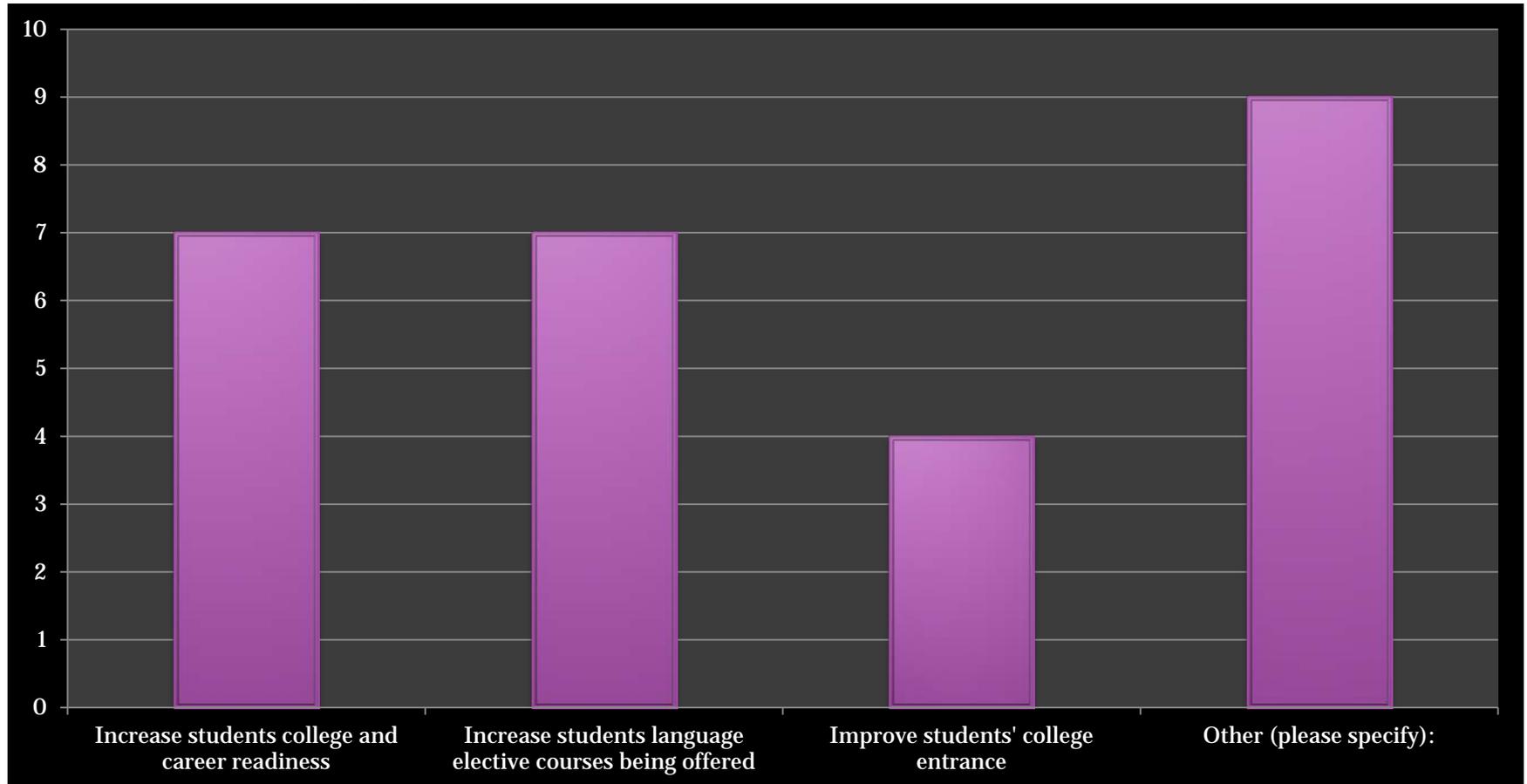
**For schools that discontinued ASL:
Would you offer an ASL Course again? If your school still has an ASL course being offered, please write N/A.**

- 8 responded N/A
- “We would consider it based on student interest and district funding.”
- “If we had a certified teacher with time available and student enrollments were sufficient.”
- “I am not sure.”
- “We have no need for ASL courses being offered.”

What levels of ASL courses are being offered or were offered?



What should be the primary goal of ASL being offered?



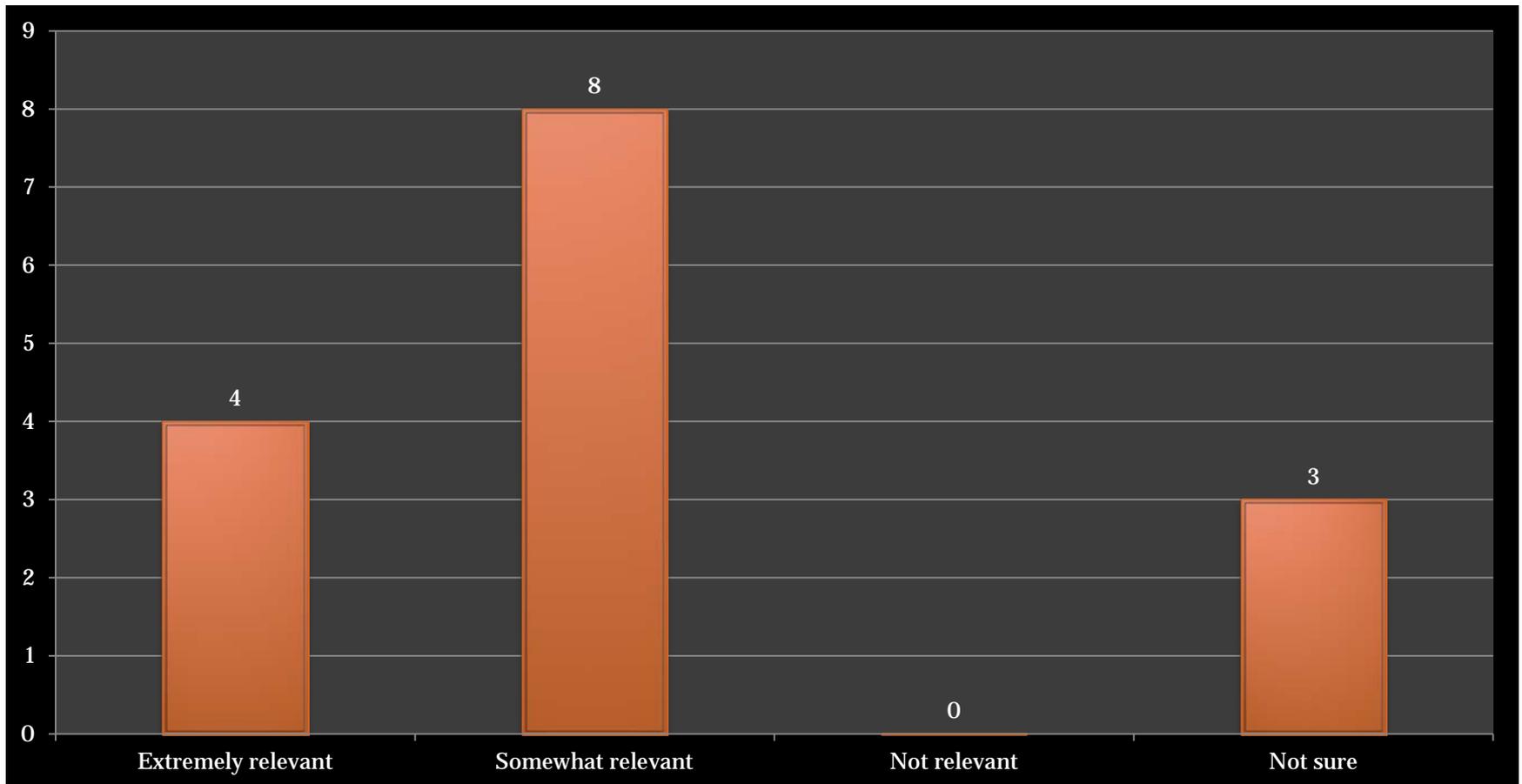
Primary goal of
ASL instruction,
continued

- “Create more opportunities for communication with peers for our students who are deaf/hearing impaired.”
- “Improve fluency of many of our student’s first language.”
- “Develop knowledge and understanding of Deaf Community and Culture.”
- “Increase awareness and ability to communicate via ASL.”
- “To effectively communicate and interact with the deaf community.”
- “We don’t offer this at the high school.”
- “Broaden their understanding of languages and culture.”

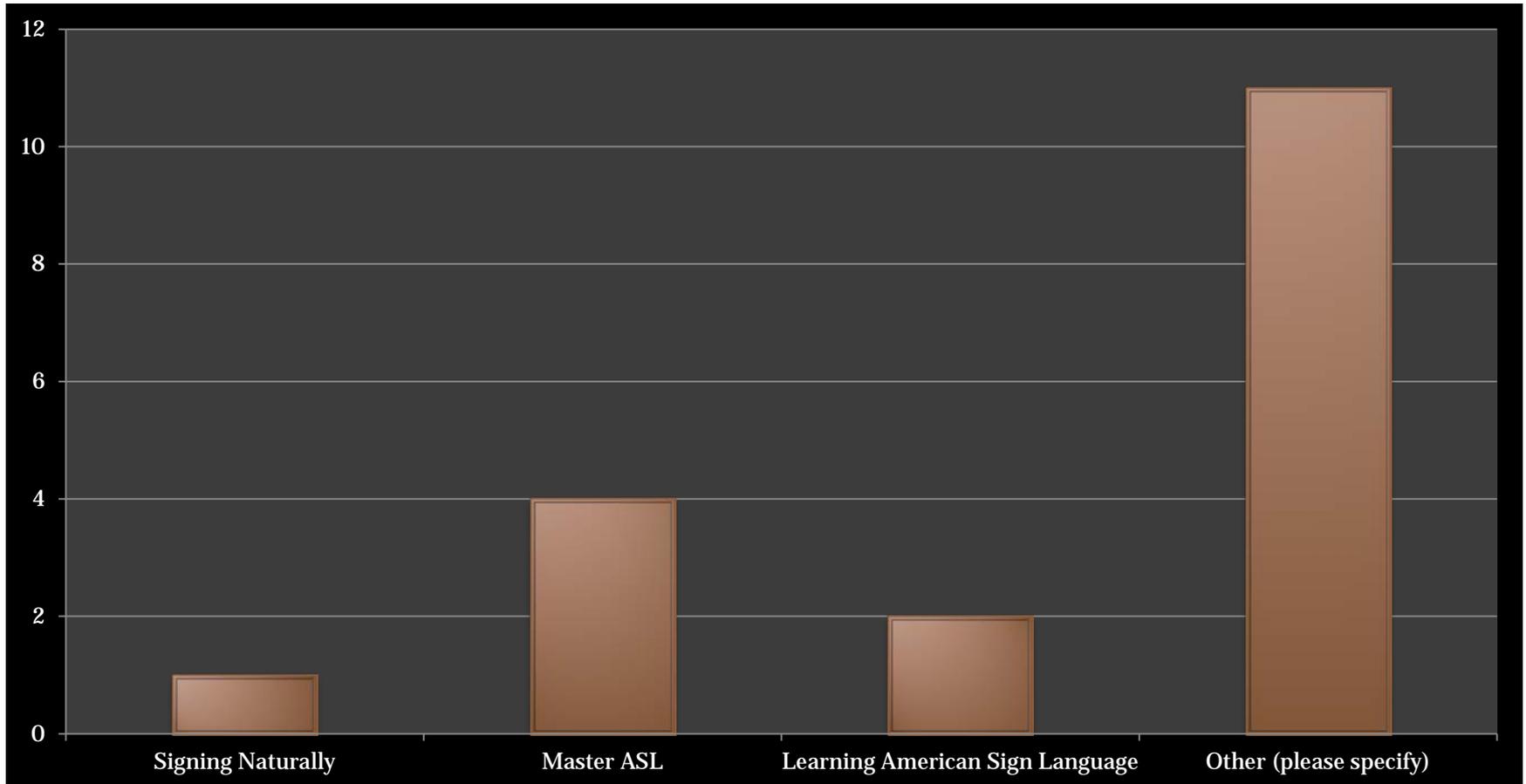
How many
students
are/were
enrolled in
ASL
courses
offered?

- “All ASL courses are always full – we have offered ASL as a foreign language for at least 6 years – we average at least 150 students a year based on enrollment numbers and offerings.”
- 440
- 125
- 112
- 107
- 31
- 25
- 15
- 9
- 6
- 0
- 0
- We have no need for ASL courses being offered.

To what extent do you feel that the ASL courses being offered are relevant to today's economy and job market?



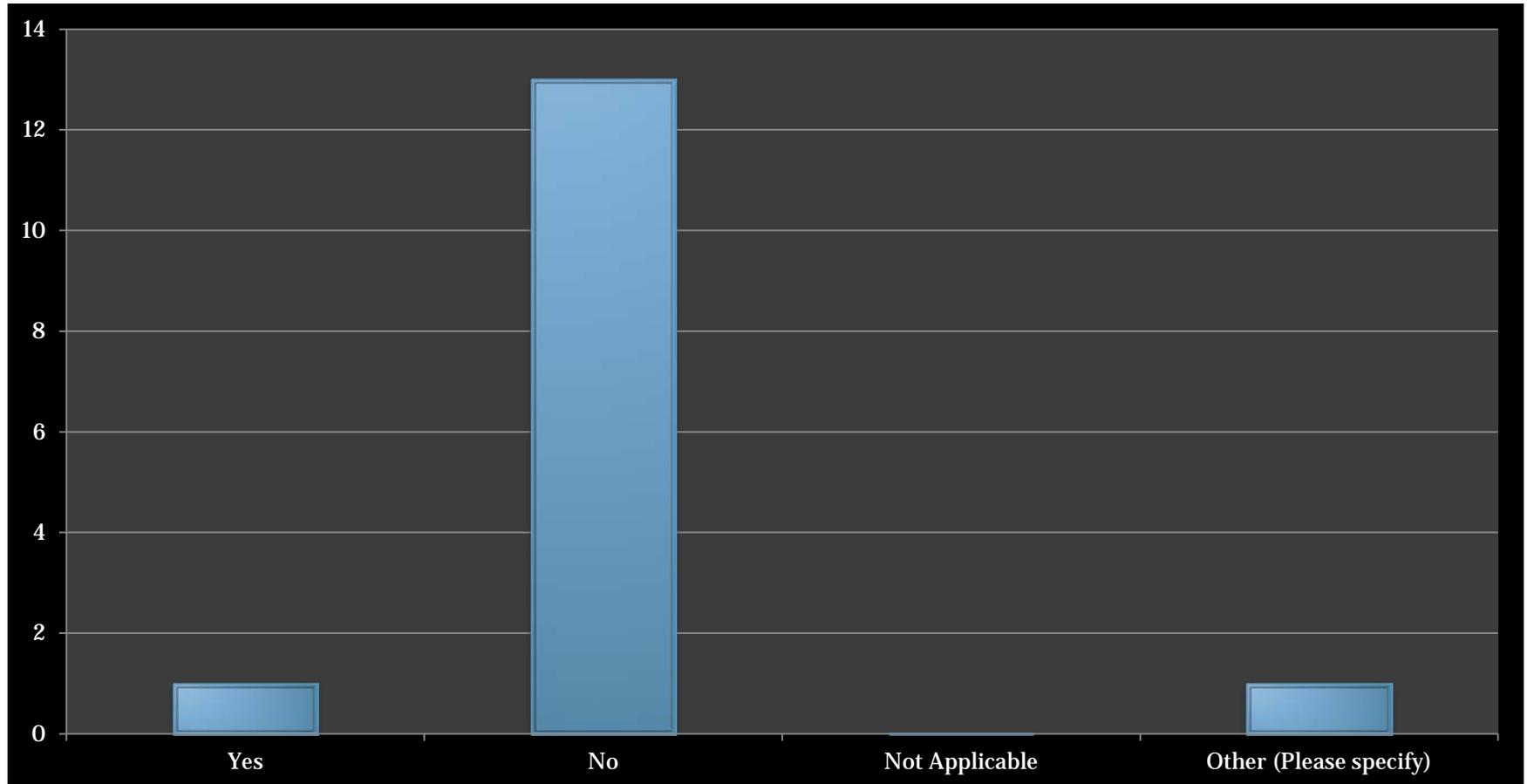
What kind of curriculum is being used to teach ASL?



ASL Curriculum Continued

- Bravo (level 1 and 1st Semester of Level 2) Signing Naturally (2nd semester level 2) Supplemental Materials from Master ASL.
- Combination of curriculums to support the curriculum guides written for the courses.
- Developed by the teacher for middle school students.
- ASL instructor of MSD campus.
- A Basic course in American Sign Language
- Variety of resources online
- American Sign Language University
- We have no need for ASL courses being offered.
- I don't know
- None
- N/A

Is ASL a requirement for your school?



What qualifications are required for ASL teachers?
Please list and explain in detail. Cont'd

- **Teacher certification with in-depth knowledge and experience with Deaf Community and Culture, as well as language proficiency in ASL and other coded systems.**
- **ELA Certified and Highly Qualified for ASL**
- **Substitute Teacher Certificate and Licensed interpreter**
- **Not sure**
- **According to DESE, the school district can decide whether or not a teacher is qualified to teach ASL. The teacher should at the very least have a degree in Deaf Education or Interpreting as well as a teaching degree.**
- **Knowledge of the language and culture**
- **I don't know that either. Fox C-6 Schools**

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Recommendations

- Degree in content or related content area BA/BS
- Valid Teaching Certificate i.e. ASLTA, Missouri Teacher Certificate
- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience (teaching ASL or ASL acquisition)
- Minimum of 3.5 ASLPI Score
- List recommended Curriculum resources on DESE Website, MCDHH website i.e, Signing Naturally, Master ASL

Position Description

- **Bachelor's Degree required**
- **Highly qualified and certified to teach American Sign Language**
- **Recommended to hold a valid American Sign Language certificate**
- **ASL proficiency above intermediate level (3.5 ASLPI)**