High School Regents

It’s not reading or writing but artistic and foreign languages that seem to matter most to most students, according to a new survey of high school students by the National Endowment for the Arts.

And, in fact, the survey indicates that more students are studying foreign languages than ever before.

The survey, conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts, found that 24 percent of high school students reported having taken at least one foreign language course.

Roughly equal proportions of men, women, the young and not-so-young reported not paying more attention to foreign languages than in the same subjects in school.

The other major finding:

The gender gap in foreign language study is much narrower than in the past.

Instead of the 19 percent of men and 12 percent of women who reported learning foreign languages in school, the gender gap is now only 6 percent.

For more information, visit the NEA website: www.arts.gov.