



Our students will lead and shape the future

Students earn more than 200 high school credits for world language competency

In October and November students took language competency tests to earn high school credit.

Registration is now open for second round of language competency tests.

Last fall the district offered [language competency tests](#) for students who can fluently speak, write, read and listen in a language other than English. Those who demonstrated that competency are eligible for high school credit in that language. If the language score is high enough, a student can also earn a [Seal of Biliteracy](#) added to the high school diploma.

Today, the district announced registration is open for the second round of those competency tests to be given on Saturday, Feb. 27. Students can register until Feb. 4 in each school treasurer's office.

According to Georgia Lindquist, the district's middle and high school literacy and humanities specialist, 82 students took last fall's tests. Those students earned 229 high school credits. "That number could go up this spring as some of the students are testing again to earn full credit for the speaking portion of their language tests," noted Lindquist.

For February testing, as was the case last fall, students should make sure a specific language test is available. "For some languages, it can take time to get the official test," said Lindquist, "so we don't advise waiting to check on your language." To verify a specific language test is available, Lindquist suggests students email WLA@everettsd.org with name, grade level, school and the language you are interested in as soon as possible and, for February testing, no later than Jan. 22.

In the district's 26 schools, students speak more than 80 different languages in their homes. "These students come to our district with an incredible skill. Enabling them to document that skill and earn credit for it helps position them for success in high school and beyond," said Lindquist.

(more)

News release

Jan. 6, 2016

February testing will include almost 30 different language tests requested by students:

- Arabic
- Chinese/Mandarin
- Chuukese
- French
- Gambian
- German
- Hebrew
- Italian
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Korean
- Laotian
- Mandika
- Marshallese
- Nepalese
- Persian/Farsi
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Swedish
- Tagalog
- Tamil
- Ukrainian
- Vietnamese

Language competency testing for high school credit is new this school year. New next year is another world language addition – [Spanish for high school credit](#) for middle school students.

“Giving students more access to world languages helps better prepare them for the global future, and having earned more language credits in high school, opens doors to more colleges and universities,” Lindquist pointed out.

Background

The Seal of Biliteracy is new this year for students in Washington state, although there are a growing number of states who have adopted the program and its standards. According to the website of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of Washington, the seal’s purpose is to increase the number of citizens fluent and productive in multiple world languages.

According to sealofbiliteracy.org, Washington state is one of only 11 states and the District of Columbia to have legally approved the *Seal of Biliteracy* endorsement on high school diplomas.

Students in the district’s 26 schools speak more than 80 different languages other than English in their homes; on Oct. 1, 2015, that number was 89.



For more information:

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