



News release

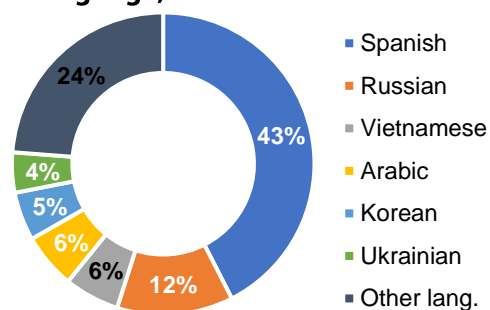
September 20, 2022

World Language Assessments result in over 6,600 high school credits

Over 2,000 Everett Public Schools students have taken the assessment since 2015-16 and earned high school credit without taking a class

[Everett, WA] — Since the 2015-16 school year, Everett Public Schools has offered World Language Assessments (WLAs) to students in grades 7-12. Through these assessments, students can become eligible for up to four high school language credits by demonstrating proficiency in non-English languages gained outside the classroom. If they can fluently read, write, speak and listen in a language other than English, they can take this assessment and earn high school language credits. Initially offered just two weekends per year and paid for entirely by families, beginning in 2016-17, Everett Public Schools students could take WLAs during the school day and at a cost to families of only \$10. The full cost of an assessment could range from \$20 to hundreds of dollars, depending on the language the test was written in: with less common languages costing more to provide.

Share of WLAs Taken by Language, 2015-16 to 2021-22



Over 2,000 students have taken over 2,200 WLAs covering 57 languages since 2015-16. Through these WLAs, students have earned over 6,600 high school credits. Students taking the WLAs were highly successful overall; more than 92% of students scored high enough to earn at least one high school credit through WLAs each year.

Over 75% of all WLAs taken were in just 6 languages: Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Vietnamese, Korean and Ukrainian. Spanish was consistently the most common language assessed, accounting for 43% of all WLAs taken since 2015-16.

Catherine Matthews, Director of Assessment & Research said, “Being fluent in more than one language is a tremendous asset in our global community. The World Language Assessments are one way to acknowledge the value of being multilingual. It has been amazing to watch this program grow and benefit so many students.”

Open for 7 – 12 graders, registration for the Fall 2022-23 World Language Assessment is September 7-30 and students can register in their school office. The fall test is typically in October and the winter test is in February.

“We have such a richly diverse school district,” stated Superintendent Ian Saltzman. “The students who come from families speaking languages other than English add great perspectives and insights into our community. I am glad these students who already fluently speak another language take advantage of the WLA.”

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For more information:

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