

World Language Credit for Proficiency

Frequently Asked Questions

Fall 2015

ELIGIBILITY

1. How do students know if they can pass the tests?

If students can fluently read, write, speak, and listen in a language other than English and can answer “Yes, I can do this fairly easily” to each statement in a language other than English, then they will probably be able to earn at least one-two credits. If students can answer “Yes, I can do this very easily” to all of the statements, then they may be able to earn three-four credits when they get tested:

- I can understand ideas on familiar topics expressed through phrases, short sentences, and frequently used expressions. [Listening]
- I can understand the main idea and some details in simple texts that contain familiar vocabulary. [Reading]
- I can exchange information with another person about familiar tasks, topics and activities. [Person-to-Person Communication]
- I can use a series of phrases and sentences to provide basic information about familiar topics. [Spoken Production]
- I can write simple descriptions and short messages and request or provide information on familiar topics. [Writing]

2. Are these tests only for high school students?

High school students have priority for testing; however, if there is room, seventh or eighth grade students may sign up for testing. All students must register with the treasurer of the high school where the test is being administered by the deadline for registering.

REGISTRATION AND TESTING LOCATIONS

3. Who does the student pay, and how do they register for their specific language?

When students pay the school treasurer, they will tell the treasurer which language test they are taking and the best location for them to take the test from the list of dates offered this fall. Testing will take place at EHS on October 24 (registration deadline: October 8) and CHS on November 14 (registration deadline November 3).

4. Where can students register for and take the assessment?

This fall students can sign up and pay for testing with the treasurer at any high school.

5. I know of students who were able to test in Seattle School District last year. Can we still do that if our language isn't offered this fall?

Seattle Public Schools are no longer offering testing opportunities to students from other districts.

6. Is there any place that our district students are able to test for a language we are not offering?

Not at this time.

CREDITS AND BENEFITS

7. How many credits can the student earn by demonstrating fluency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening?

This year students will be able to earn up to four credits, depending upon the level of proficiency they demonstrate on the assessments in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students may demonstrate varied levels of proficiency across these four skill areas, and because credits will be awarded based on the lowest level of proficiency demonstrated across the skill areas, it is important for students to have strong skills in all four areas.

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8. What is the benefit of taking this test?

Students will earn proficiency-based high school credits, will meet the world language credit requirement for graduation, and may qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma.

9. How will students get the credits added to the transcript?

Students and their families can complete the district form to request approval of credit for proficiency in a world language, attach the original score reports and official documentation, and turn in the completed, signed form and attachments to their school registrar.

LANGUAGES TESTED

10. What tests are offered fall 2015?

Students can test in Arabic, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Simplified or Traditional), Russian, or Spanish.

11. Will we be offering other languages in the future?

Yes, we ask that students send in their name, school, grade, and world language requested to WLA@everettsd.org so the district can make plans to test students' language proficiency for additional languages. In addition, students may take Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Culture tests to earn up to four credits and the Seal of Biliteracy in the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, or Spanish.

12. When will you be offering other languages for testing?

Depending on the languages requested, we anticipate a late winter 2016 administration. In addition, in spring 2016 students may take AP Language and Culture tests to earn up to four credits and the Seal of Biliteracy. Students must contact their high school AP Coordinator in advance to be able to take the AP Language and Culture tests for Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, or Spanish in the spring.

13. Why is my language not available?

This fall we are testing world languages assessed on STAMP and ACTFL AAPPL tests, since we have a high number of students who will be able to test for language proficiency in those languages.

14. Will emailing WLA@everettsd.org guarantee that the language a student is looking for will be available?

We cannot guarantee that we can support all languages this year, but students should send in their name, school, grade, and language, to WLA@everettsd.org for future consideration and planning.

PREPARING FOR TESTING

15. What's the best way to get prepared for tests this fall in Arabic, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, or Spanish? Students should:

- Read the *Test Taker's Guide* @ <http://avantassessment.com/docs/stamp4s-test-taker-guide.pdf>
- See page two of the Benchmarks and Rubric Guide for assessments topics @ <http://avantassessment.com/docs/stamp4s-benchmarks-and-rubric-guide.pdf>
- Practice by taking a sample test @ <https://stamp4ssample.avantassessment.com/stamp4spractice/do/login>

16. How can I get prepared for tests this fall in Russian? Students should:

- Watch the three videos for tips for speaking, reading, listening, and writing assessments @ <http://aappl.actfl.org/tips>
- Review the 2015 Tasks and Topics @ <http://aappl.actfl.org/sites/default/files/>
- Practice by taking sample tests @ <http://aappl.actfl.org/demo#demos>

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17. What is the best way to prepare for any language proficiency test?

These tests measure your proficiency: what you can do with the language (not what you know about the language, such as grammar facts or vocabulary definitions). You'll be asked to speak and write about different topics to see whether your proficiency level is more at the [Novice level, Intermediate level, or Advanced level](#). You can find examples in English and some other languages in the [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012](#).

18. What happens if I do not do well on the test?

You can take the test again. Usually it's best to wait at least a few months before retesting in order to take the time needed to get prepared for the next testing opportunity. Test results will not be automatically added to student grade reports or transcripts. Note especially that test results will not be added to a student's transcript, unless the student formally requests that approved credits from district testing be added to his/her transcript.

ASSESSMENT COSTS

19. Will the cost of the test rise when offering more languages?

The student pays for the actual cost of the test from the vendor; this fall the district is paying for the administrative costs, including proctors, IT support, etc. Other language tests will cost more than the tests for the languages tested this fall, which are offered for \$20.00 by STAMP and ACTFL AAPPL.

20. What does it mean that the test costs vary by language?

This fall we are only testing in languages that cost \$20.00. The range of test fees for world language assessments for 2015-16 is \$20 - \$250, depending upon the testing company or provider.

21. If I am not satisfied with my results, can I retest? Will the test cost more?

Yes, you can retest. Usually it's best to wait at least a few months before retesting to have time for further preparation. The test may cost more, as testing costs could increase from one year to the next for the test itself or for administrative costs associated with test days.

OTHER QUESTIONS

22. What if I still have questions?

Please contact WLA@everettsd.org with any other questions.