

World Language Credit for Proficiency

Frequently Asked Questions

2016-17

ELIGIBILITY

1. How do students know if they should take and 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 below in a language other than English, then they will probably be able to earn at least one or 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 or 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. Who can take a world language assessment?

Students in Everett Public Schools in grades 7 through 12 may sign up for testing. All students must register and pay the \$10 fee with the treasurer at their school within the registration window for fall or spring.

REGISTRATION AND TESTING LOCATIONS

3. When are the 2016-17 testing dates?

The fall testing date is November 15 and the spring date is April 24 at three of the district high schools.

4. When can students register?

Fall registration is October 3 – 24 for the November 15 test. Spring registration is March 6 – 31 for the April 24 test date. No late registrations will be accepted.

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

Students can sign up and pay \$10 for 2016-17 testing with the treasurer at their school. When students pay the school treasurer, they will tell the treasurer the language test they are taking and at which location. Testing will occur at Cascade, Everett, and HM Jackson high schools. Registration will also be available on high school and middle school websites; a \$3 convenience fee will apply.

LANGUAGES TESTED

6. Which languages will be tested?

We will make every effort to include all languages. Students fluent in a language not commonly spoken in the United States should register in October in the event that it takes additional time to locate a test.

CREDITS AND BENEFITS

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

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

World Language Credit for Proficiency

Frequently Asked Questions

2016-17

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.

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?

Test results will not be automatically added to student transcripts. Students and their families can return the district letter (sent after testing) to their school counselor or registrar to request that world language proficiency credits be added to their transcript. Students (who tested in other locations) and their families can complete the district form [2415P](#) to request approval of credit for proficiency in a world language, attach the original score reports and official documentation, to their school registrar or counselor. Credit will be awarded with a grade of Satisfactory (S). Once placed on the transcript, credits cannot be removed.

10. What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

Students who demonstrate proficiency on the world language competency tests at the Intermediate-Mid proficiency level may qualify for the [Seal of Biliteracy](#) on their high school diploma if they also meet all requirements for English Language Arts (ELA), including passing all four high school English classes and passing the state ELA Smarter Balanced Assessment.

ASSESSMENT COSTS

11. What will the test cost?

Students and their families are responsible for paying the \$10 testing fee at the time of registration. Registration will also be available on high school and middle school websites; a \$3 convenience fee will apply to register online.

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

Yes, you can retest. The 2016-17 test fee of \$10 could increase in future years.

PREPARING FOR TESTING

13. What's the best way to prepare for tests in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish (STAMP tests)?

Students can:

- Read the *Test Taker's Guide* at <http://tinyurl.com/oulzyya>
- See page two of the *Benchmarks and Rubric Guide* at <http://tinyurl.com/j82dclw>
- Take a sample test at <http://tinyurl.com/oklhdb>

14. How can I prepare for the test in Portuguese (ACTFL AAPPL tests)?

Students can:

- Watch the three videos for tips for speaking, reading, listening, and writing assessments at <http://aappl.actfl.org/tips>
- Review the 2017 Tasks and Topics for students in grade 7 and above at <http://tinyurl.com/zknnb2a>
- Practice by taking sample tests at <http://aappl.actfl.org/demo#demos>. See the practice test tasks and topics, review the directions, and try both Form A and Form B tests.

15. What are ways to prepare for languages assessed with other tests?

Students should be prepared to:

- Show what they know on a variety of speaking, listening, reading, and writing tasks, such as giving a description, talking about an event, writing a letter, explaining a procedure,
- Demonstrate fluency with how they use and control the language, since they will be scored on communication, comprehension, expression, understanding of the given topics, grammar, vocabulary, and spelling.

World Language Credit for Proficiency

Frequently Asked Questions

2016-17

- c. Write in a variety of styles and forms to tell about a personal experience, persuade, describe, give an opinion, or explain a procedure in a fully developed written response (a minimum of 100 words).
- d. Demonstrate quality in organization, sentence structure, style, expression of ideas, relevance to the question asked, and grammar.
- e. Use the same level of formality in responses as is used on the question. If the question is about everyday topics, a more conversational response is appropriate; however, other questions may require a more formal type of speech.
- f. Understand and use a wide variety vocabulary, including advanced vocabulary and some phrases and idioms.

For more ideas, students can review the ideas for preparing for the tests listed above.

16. How do I know if I am ready to take a language proficiency test?

Students' language proficiency should be at the Intermediate-Mid level to earn four credits. To see if a student's proficiency level is appropriate for testing and to see other helpful ideas regarding testing, students can review the list of topics and skills at https://www.actfl.org/global_statements by clicking on the Intermediate-Mid boxes for each mode: interpersonal communication, presentational speaking, presentational writing, interpretive listening, and interpretive reading. Then students should click on the additional links provided in the boxes and review the "Can Do" statements at the Intermediate-Mid and other levels.

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

Students will have multiple opportunities and should prepare for the next test administration date to increase their scores.

TEST RESULTS

18. How will I find out about my test results?

Students will receive a letter from the school district notifying them of their testing results, proficiency levels, and number of eligible high school credits. See the chart below for how a variety of test scores translate to number of high school credits.

ACTFL Proficiency Guideline Levels	Eligible HS Credit	STAMP R/W/L/S	AAPPL R/W/L/S	WAFLT Writing & Oral	ILR Rating	ALTA Writing & Oral	ALTA HS Eligible
Novice Low	0	1	N1	Novice Low	0	1, 2	0
Novice Mid	1	2	N2 & N3	Novice Mid	0	3	1
Novice High	2	3	N4	Novice High	0+	4	2
Intermediate Low	3	4	I1	Intermediate Low	1	5	3
Intermediate Mid	4	5	I2, I3, I4	Intermediate Mid	1	5	3
Intermediate High	4	6	I5	Intermediate High	1+	6	4
Advanced Low	4	7	A	Advanced Low	2	7	4
Advanced Mid and higher	4				2-5	7-12+	4

OTHER QUESTIONS

19. What if I still have questions?

Questions about:

- Registering for specific language exam, contact WLA@everettsd.org
- High school credit, contact school counselors
- Paying for registration, contact high school treasurers or middle school office managers