World Language Credit for Proficiency
Frequently Asked Questions
- Spring 2016

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:
   a. I can understand ideas on familiar topics expressed through phrases, short sentences, and frequently used expressions. [Listening]
   b. I can understand the main idea and some details in simple texts that contain familiar vocabulary. [Reading]
   c. I can exchange information with another person about familiar tasks, topics and activities. [Person-to-Person Communication]
   d. I can use a series of phrases and sentences to provide basic information about familiar topics. [Spoken Production]
   e. 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 their school by the deadline for registering.

REGISTRATION AND TESTING LOCATIONS

3. Where can students register for and take the assessment?
   Students can sign up and pay for testing in winter 2016 with the treasurer at their school. When students pay the school treasurer, they will tell the treasurer which language test they are taking. Testing will take place at CHS on February 27 (registration deadline: January 22). If students are interested in taking an Advanced Placement (AP) language test in the spring, they must contact their building AP coordinator by April 1, 2016.

4. I know of students who were able to test in Seattle last year. Can we still do that if our language isn’t offered?
   Seattle Public Schools are no longer offering testing opportunities to students from other districts. At this time, there are no other testing locations open to Everett Public Schools students.

LANGUAGES TESTED

5. Which languages will be tested in winter 2016?
   These are the languages that will be offered for testing February 27 for registered students:
   - Arabic
   - Chinese/Mandarin (Simplified or Traditional)
   - 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

Curriculum, Assessment, and Special Programs Department
12/17/15

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6. Will there be other testing opportunities this school year? What about AP tests?
   This spring students may take 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. Students must register and pay the testing cost for an AP language test with their school treasurer before Spring Break.

7. What about world languages not on the list?
   To help us plan for testing for other world languages in winter 2016, students must send their name, high school, grade level, and the world language they are interested in to WLA@everettsd.org no later than Jan. 22 to be able to test in the language of their choice in Feb. The district will not be able to accommodate late requests for tests in other languages.

8. Will we be offering other languages in the future?
   Yes, and 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. We anticipate several opportunities for students to take world language assessments every year.

9. 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, especially since some tests may require several months to be developed, but students should send in their name, school, grade, and language, to WLA@everettsd.org for future consideration and planning.

CREDITS AND BENEFITS

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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 or counselor. Students and their families can also bring the district letter (sent after testing) to their school counselor or registrar to request that world language proficiency credits be added to their transcript. Note credit will be awarded with a grade of Satisfactory (S).

13. 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), too, including passing all four high school English classes and passing the state ELA Smarter Balanced Assessment.
ASSESSMENT COSTS

14. What will the test cost?

Students and their families are responsible for paying for the actual cost of the test; the district pays administrative costs. The cost of the test varies by language test, based upon the cost charged by the test vendor. It is important to check on the cost of the test ahead of time and to be prepared to pay for the test by Feb. 4 when students register for testing. See the chart below for the cost of language tests offered February 29, 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Cost/Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>$20/STAMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese (Mandarin Simplified or Traditional)</td>
<td>$20/STAMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuukese</td>
<td>$250/WAFLT CUSTOM TEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambian</td>
<td>$250/OSPH-WAFLT CUSTOM TEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>$20/STAMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>$20/STAMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>$150/ALTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>$20/STAMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>$150/ALTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laotian</td>
<td>$150/ALTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandika</td>
<td>$180/OSPH-WAFLT CUSTOM TEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshallese</td>
<td>$180/WAFLT CUSTOM TEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepalese</td>
<td>$150/ALTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian/Farsi</td>
<td>$150/ALTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>$20/ACTFL AAPPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjabi</td>
<td>$150/ALTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romanian</td>
<td>$150/ALTA</td>
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<td>$150/ALTA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

15. 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.
PREPARING FOR TESTING

16. What’s the best way to get prepared for the STAMP tests? Students should:
   c. Practice by taking a sample test @ https://stamp4ssample.avantassessment.com/stamp4spractice/do/login

17. How can I get prepared for ACTFL AAPPL tests? Students should:
   a. Watch the three videos for tips for speaking, reading, listening, and writing assessments@ http://aappl.actfl.org/tips
   b. Review the 2015 Tasks and Topics @ http://aappl.actfl.org/sites/default/files/
   c. Practice by taking sample tests @ http://aappl.actfl.org/demo#demos

18. What are ways to get prepared for the different languages assessed on ALTA language tests?
   a. Be prepared to show what you know with a variety of speaking, listening, and writing tasks, such as: giving a description, talking about an event, writing a letter, and describing a procedure.
   b. Be sure that you demonstrate fluency with how you use and control the language, since you will be scored on communication, comprehension, expression, understanding of the given topics, grammar, vocabulary, and spelling.

19. 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, read, 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.

20. 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.

OTHER QUESTIONS

21. What if I still have questions?
   Please contact WLA@everettsd.org with any other questions.