

World Language Credit for Proficiency Frequently Asked Questions 2017-18

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 they should consider taking the test. Answer the questions below to see how you might do:

	I can do this VERY easily	I can do this FAIRLY easily	I can NOT do this easily or at all
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]	☐	☐	☐

- If you answered I can't do this easily or at all to any of the questions, you should consider studying these content areas further and registering for a future test date.
- If you answered I can do this fairly easily to any of the questions, you will probably be able to earn 1 to 2 credits.
- If you answered I can do this very easily to all the questions, you will probably be able to earn 3 to 4 credits.

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 2017-18 testing dates?

The fall testing date is November 15 and the spring date is April 25 at all high school and middle school buildings.

4. When can students register?

Fall registration is September 25 - October 20 for the November 15 test. Spring registration is March 5 – 30 for the April 25 test date. No late registrations will be accepted.

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

Students will be required to fill out a quick proficiency questionnaire before registering and paying the \$10 exam fee with the school's treasurer. Testing will occur at each high school and middle school building.

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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. Credits will be awarded based on the lowest level of proficiency demonstrated across the skill areas, so 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, may 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 their transcripts?

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.

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

Yes, you can retest. If you choose to retake the exam in the same school year, you must pay the full cost of the exam, which varies from test to test. It is important to take into consideration your proficiency in all content areas before registering. If you think you will more proficient in this language in semester two, you may consider waiting for the spring test.

PREPARING FOR TESTING

13. How can I prepare for tests in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish (AVANT tests)?

Students can:

- Read the *Test Taker's Guide* at <https://avantassessment.com/stamp4s/test-taker-guide>
- See page two of the *Benchmarks and Rubric Guide* at <https://avantassessment.com/stamp4s/benchmarks-rubric-guide>
- Take a sample test at <https://stamp4s.avantassessment.com/avant/do/samplelogin>

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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. How can I prepare for languages assessed with other tests?

Students should:

- Be prepared to show what they 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.
- Be sure that they can 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.
- 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. Note that the registration fee will increase to the actual exam fee if you decide to retake the same language test in the same school year.

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. The number of credits student receive is based upon the lowest proficiency score in any of the four content areas (reading, writing, listen, speaking).

OTHER QUESTIONS

19. What if I still have questions?

Questions about:

- Registering for specific language exam, contact WLA@everettsd.org
- High school credit, contact your school counselor
- Paying for registration, contact your high school treasurer or middle school office manager