

## World Language Credit for Proficiency

### I. Definition

A World Language is any natural language that has been formally studied, including American Sign Language (AMESLAN, the language of the Deaf community) and languages no longer spoken, such as Latin and ancient Greek. Computer “languages” and forms of signing aside from AMESLAN are not considered World Languages for the purposes of this policy or procedure.

### II. Demonstrating Proficiency in a World Language

Students seeking competency based credit must demonstrate proficiency across language skills. Assessments will be aligned to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines in order to ensure consistency across languages. The district will select the appropriate assessment instrument(s) from the following:

- A. Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) in reading, writing, and speaking and listening, if available for all languages for which it is available
- B. American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) assessments Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or Oral Proficiency Interview Computer Based (OPIc) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT)— for languages for which STAMP is not available or for which ACTFL assessments are deemed to be more appropriate.
- C. Appropriate assessments for American Sign Language such as the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI).
- D. For languages that do not currently have any other nationally available proficiency based assessment, the district will work with local language communities and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) World Languages Program to develop a collection of evidence process that is aligned with ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.

### III. Determining Competency and Credit Equivalencies

One or more credits will be awarded based on the student demonstrating an overall proficiency level according to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines as follows:

Novice Mid – 1.0 credit (Carnegie Unit)  
Novice High – 2.0 credits Intermediate  
Low – 3.0 credits Intermediate Mid –  
4.0 credits

Since students may demonstrate varied levels of proficiency across skills, credits will be awarded based on the lowest common level of proficiency demonstrated across

the skill areas. (Example: If a student demonstrated Intermediate Mid level proficiency in Speaking, but Novice Mid in Reading and Writing, then credits would be awarded based on the lowest common level of demonstrated proficiency which would be 1.0 credit for Novice Mid.) The student would not receive individual credits for separate language skills.

**IV. Testing Opportunities**

The district will manage the assessment process for World Languages so that students have at least one opportunity annually to take the assessment(s) required to demonstrate proficiency. Assessments must be offered in a proctored setting with appropriate technology. The district will approve the site(s) where the assessments are offered, which could include individual schools, district buildings, community colleges, universities, educational service districts, or other appropriate settings.

**V. Paying for Assessments**

The district will set a fee for the assessments to cover administrative costs, test fees, and/or proctoring, in addition to any other costs that may be incurred. Fees may vary by language. The district will offer financial assistance to students who demonstrate need, such as qualifying for free or reduced price lunch.

**VI. Reporting Results**

The district will receive official test results for each student participating in the assessment process. The district will provide a letter to the student/family with a copy of the test results with a determination of how many world language credits, if any, will be awarded. School counselors will record the World Language credits earned on the official transcript, and credits will be awarded with a grade of “pass.”

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**Mark Johnson**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

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**Date**