

CREDIT FOR COMPETENCY-PROFICIENCY

World Languages Credit for Competency/Proficiency

A. Definition:

For purposes of this procedure, a world language is defined according to the definition used by the Higher Education Coordinating Board as “[a]ny 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. However, neither computer 'languages' nor forms of deaf signing aside from AMESLAN are acceptable.”

B. Demonstrating Competency/Proficiency in a World Language

The district will manage the assessment process so that students seeking competency-based credit can demonstrate competency/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:

1. Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) in reading, writing, and speaking (and listening, if available) for all languages for which it is available (as of 2011, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese). STAMP is offered by Avant Assessment (<http://avantassessment.com>).
2. 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. ACTFL assessments are offered through Language Testing International (<http://www.languagetesting.com>).
3. Appropriate assessments for American Sign Language such as the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI).
4. 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, such as LinguaFolio, that is aligned with ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.

C. Determining Competency and Credit Equivalencies

The district will award one or more credits based on the student demonstrating an overall proficiency level according to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines as follows:

1. Novice Mid – 1 credit (Carnegie Unit)
2. Novice High – 2 credits

3. Intermediate Low – 3 credits
4. Intermediate Mid – 4 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: one credit for Novice Mid. The student would not receive individual credits for separate language skills. In this example, the student would not receive four credits for Intermediate Mid in Speaking and one credit each for Novice Mid in Reading and Writing. The total award is one World Language credit.)

D. Offering Testing Opportunities

The district will manage the assessment process so that students have multiple opportunities to take or retake 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 community settings.

E. Paying for Assessments

The district will set a fee for the assessments to cover administrative costs, test fees, and/or proctoring. Fees may vary depending on the assessment costs. The district will offer financial assistance to students who demonstrate need, such as qualifying for free or reduced price lunch.

F. 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 with a copy of the test results and an indication of how many world language credits, if any, may be awarded. If requested by the student, the school counselors will record the world language credits earned on the official transcript. Credits will be awarded with a grade of “Pass.”

Math, Science, and Language Arts Credit for Competency/Proficiency

A. Definition

Competency/proficiency-based credits may be earned for required math or English language arts classes which were taken in ninth and/or tenth grade. Competency/proficiency-based credits may be earned for required science classes which were taken in ninth, tenth, and/or eleventh grade.

B. Demonstrating Competency/Proficiency in math, science, and/or English language arts

Competency/proficiency may be determined upon successful completion of the approved Washington state assessment for the corresponding subject.

C. Determining Credit Equivalencies

The number of credits earned in math and English language arts will be determined by the number of courses taken and failed prior to taking the approved state assessment, up to two credits for each subject. The number of credits earned in science will be determined by the number of courses taken prior to taking the approved state assessment, up to three credits.

D. Offering Testing Opportunities

Assessments will be offered following the Washington state designated testing guidelines and timeframes.

E. Paying for Assessments

Approved state assessments are administered at no cost to students or families.

F. Reporting Results

The district will distribute official test results to the student and families like other state assessments.

Students, parents/guardians, counselors, or school administrators may request credits for previously failed courses and passing approved state assessments. Principal or designee approval is required to place the credits on student transcripts. Documentation of the approval and number of credits should be retained along with a score report in the student's cumulative file.

Previously failed courses remain on the transcript with the original failing grade earned.

Retrieved credits will receive a "P" on the transcript and meet appropriate graduation requirements. The transcript should note the credits are based on proficiency of required state assessments.

Adopted: February 12, 2019