

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 PSD Learning & Teaching Department 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 Department will select the appropriate assessment instrument(s) from the following:

- 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 2010, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese). STAMP is offered by Avant Assessment (<http://avantassessment.com>).
- 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>).
- Appropriate assessments for American Sign Language such as the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI).

C. Determining Competency and Credit Equivalencies:

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

Novice Mid – 1 credit (Carnegie Unit)

Novice High – 2 credits

Intermediate Low – 3 credits

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, i.e. 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 Department will manage the assessment process so that students have three (3) opportunities to take or retake the assessment(s) required to demonstrate proficiency. Assessments must be offered in a proctored setting with appropriate technology.

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.

Current fees and financial assistance information are available from the PSD Learning & Teaching Department.

F. Reporting Results:

The Department will receive official test results for each student participating in the assessment process. The Department 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, Reading, and Writing
Credit for Competency/Proficiency**

The Board recognizes that the passage of a state assessment indicates achievement of the state standards. Therefore, students who pass the EOC in mathematics or biology but fail the associated course have the option to receive a passing “P” grade for the EOC subject passed.

Students who pass the Math or Biology End of Course (EOC) assessment but fail the associated course may request a “P” to replace the failing grade.

Students who pass the Reading and/or Writing HSPE but fail a core English course may request additional credit -.5 for writing, .5 for reading. This is not replacement of the failing grade, rather additional credit.

The Request for Credit form is included as part of this procedure as a separate document and located online under District policies and procedures. It is also available from the counseling office in each high school.

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