

INSTRUCTION

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 Coordination Board as “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. 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:

- Appropriate assessments for American Sign Language, such as the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI).
- 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.
- World languages and culture exams are offered through the College Board (Advanced Placement “AP” Exams) apcentral.collegeboard.com

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.

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:

Novice Mid – 1 credit (Carnegie Unit) with AP score of 3

Novice High – 2 credits with AP score of 4

Intermediate – 3 credits with AP score of 5

D. Offering Testing Opportunities

Students may have multiple opportunities to take or retake the assessment(s) required to demonstrate proficiency. Assessments will 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. Test fees are the student's responsibility, although the district may offer financial assistance to students who demonstrate need, such as qualifying for free or reduced price lunch. Please contact the high school principal to inquire about any available fee assistance opportunities. Test fees and related assessment costs must be paid in full prior to the exam.

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."

Date: 1/23/17

PORT TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 50