



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 060-17 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
Private School Administrators

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: World Languages Competency Credit and Seal of Biliteracy

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PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

This bulletin is to assist Washington state approved private high schools with information on earning world languages competency credit. The Seal of Biliteracy is also addressed.

WORLD LANGUAGES COMPETENCY CREDIT

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) verifies that state approved private schools and accredited private schools may choose to test their students for proficiency in world languages as an alternate way for students to earn world languages competency credit for high school graduation and college entrance. Proficiency testing and/or awarding world languages competency credit(s) is based on performance in the language tested. Speaking, reading, and writing are typically included. The rating descriptors align to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). OSPI recommends that state approved private schools follow [Competency Testing and Credits for World Languages](#) guidelines if they choose to participate in world languages competency credit.

Note: Upon prior arrangement, the neighborhood public school conducting world languages competency testing may include state approved private school students in their testing cycle. However, not all public schools participate in optional world languages competency credit testing.

Approved Washington state private schools may conduct world languages proficiency testing for competency credit at their own school site. Participating private schools with student populations that include grades 8–12 should incorporate, at a minimum, the steps below:

1. Follow the [World Languages Competency Credit](#) guidelines.
2. Coordinate with the school board to set up a plan that incorporates world language testing protocols, rules, and regulations. See the Washington State School Directors' Association's (WSSDA) samples of "Policy and Procedure" under One Time Steps at [Establish World Languages Competency Testing and Credits](#).
3. Adopt a plan for your school community that includes:
 - a. The rationale for testing, communication with families/students that may be likely candidates, the languages to be tested, the testing timelines (cluster several languages/tests, as feasible), and identify the secure and proctored school site.
 - b. Order appropriate tests from approved national testing agencies aligned to the ACTFL proficiency guidelines. See step-by-step instructions, test ordering, and recommended timelines located at [Competency Testing and Credits for World Languages](#).
 - c. Interpret scores for potential credit. See [Establish World Language Competency Testing](#) for how to interpret scores for different tests.
 - d. Notify parents and students of test results. Post the earned "P" grade for competency credit to students' transcripts. This grade does not figure into the student's GPA.
 - e. When adhering to the [World Language Competency Credit](#) guidelines, subsequent credit earned may fulfill the minimum two-year graduation requirement for the Class of 2019 and beyond. It may also fulfill the world languages two-year minimum entrance requirement for Washington state four-year colleges. Some colleges and universities require three years of a single foreign language for entrance. Check with your preferred college to confirm entrance requirements.

WORLD LANGUAGES SEAL OF BILITERACY

As noted in [RCW 28A.300.575](#), OSPI verifies that the Seal of Biliteracy is state approved only for public high schools. The Washington State [Seal of Biliteracy](#) recognizes public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

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INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

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The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the OSPI website at

<http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2017.aspx>.

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