

Credit for Competency/Proficiency and Credit for Mastery

1. Credit for Competency/Proficiency for World Language

A. Definition of World Language:

For purposes of this procedure, a world language is defined according to the definition used by the Higher Education Coordinating Board as “any natural language that has been formally studied, including American Sign Language (AMESLAN, the language of the deaf community), American Indian/Alaskan Native Tribal Languages, 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 list of approved assessment options maintained by OSPI. The list of assessments can be found on the OSPI World Languages website:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/world-languages/world-language-proficiency-assessment-options>

The district will follow OSPI guidance for granting competency-based credit for American Indian/Alaskan Native Tribal Languages.

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, 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.

In accordance with OSPI guidance, the district will grant competency-based credit for American Indian/Alaskan Native Tribal Languages upon the determination by Tribal Officials.

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. For competency-based credit for American Indian/Alaskan Native Tribal Languages, Tribal Officials will determine the assessment procedures. Tribal Officials will report results to school administrators.

E. Paying for Assessments

The costs for proficiency assessments administered by a third party will be paid by student/parent/guardian. Fees may vary depending on the assessment costs.

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."

2. Credit for Competency/Proficiency for Credit Retrieval for English Language Arts, Math, and Science

State assessments will be used for credit retrieval for English Language Arts, Math, and Science. Credit retrieval will not replace a student's grade on the transcript. The transcript will indicate that the competency-based assessment was used to document proficiency and the student will receive a "P" for Pass as the grade of record.

3. Credit for Mastery

A. Mastery of Academic Standards

In accordance with state law and district policy, students may earn credit for mastery of academic standards based on the percentage of standards met for the course of study. Mastery-based credit may be granted for any academic subject. Credit for Mastery will be granted by the school principal or designee when the student demonstrates mastery of the standards. Credit for Mastery is not based on seat time.

B. Grading

For mastery-based credit, the student will receive a percentage grade based on the percentage of standards met for the course of study. The percentage grade will be posted as a letter grade on the state standardized transcript. The principal or designee will be responsible for approving and awarding mastery-based credit and grades.