

January 18, 2019



8th Grade Dual Language Immersion Credit Testing

Dear Families of 8th Grade Dual Language Immersion Students,

Thank you for choosing to participate in a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program in one of Seattle's International Schools. Your child has the opportunity to be educated in two languages and to graduate from high school bilingual and biliterate. Seattle is committed to supporting all students in our DLI programs to reach **Advanced level proficiency** in all language skills when they graduate high school.

By the end of middle school, we aim to have students reach **Intermediate Low to Intermediate Mid level proficiency** in the partner language. We use the Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP test) to test students' general ability to use the language during the spring of 8th grade. Based on their STAMP results, students can earn from 1-4 high school credits in the partner language they have been learning in the DLI program (Spanish, Japanese, or Mandarin Chinese).

Testing Opportunities

STAMP testing is arranged at Hamilton International Middle School, Denny International Middle School, and Mercer International Middle School. **Contact your teacher to find out when testing is scheduled.**

Awarding High School World Language Credits

World Language Credit will be granted (in high school) if students meet the following levels of proficiency across the four skills tested on the STAMP (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking):

- Novice Mid earns 1 credit
- Novice High earns 2 credits
- Intermediate Low earns 3 credits
- Intermediate Mid earns 4 credits

Credit will appear on the high school transcript with a "P" for pass as the grade mark. Students will need to specifically request to have the credits added to their high school transcript. We will provide more information to you about that when you receive the STAMP results in the spring.

Placement in High School World Language Classes

The recommended placement of DLI students into high school world language classes is:

- If student earns 1 Competency-Based Credit, place into Level 2 at high school
- If student earns 2 Competency-Based Credits, place into Level 3 at high school
- If student earns 3 Competency-Based Credits, place into Level 4 (or possibly AP) at high school
- If student earns 4 Competency-Based Credits, place into Level 4 or 5, AP or IB at high school

Specific placement decisions are up to the high school based on conversations with the language teachers, student, and family.

This is a unique opportunity available to **YOUR CHILDREN** because they are students in a Dual Language Immersion pathway in Seattle. Please take advantage of it! If you have questions, feel free to contact me or your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Michele Anciaux Aoki, International Education Administrator, Seattle Public Schools
maaoki@seattleschools.org or 206 252-0191

Questions You May Have about World Languages

How many World Language credits do students need to graduate high school?

Students in our district now need to meet the new state high school graduation requirements (24 credits including 2 credits of world language). Students from Dual Language Immersion programs will earn Competency-Based World Language Credits (from 1 to 4 credits) based on their STAMP test results in 8th grade and additional credits for courses they complete in high school. Having enough credits to graduate high school is not the main goal for Dual Language Immersion programs.

How many World Language credits do students need for admission to a 4-year college?

If students ever plan to apply to attend a 4-year college or university in our state (and in most other states), they do need to have world languages on their high school transcript. College admissions officers look at the **highest level of world language course** students have taken. It is very advantageous to have Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) level courses on a high school transcript. In addition, students who pass the IB or AP language exams may qualify for 5 to 15 **college credits** in the language based on their score, when they enter college.

Why else should students continue studying a language at higher levels?

We cannot even imagine right now when and how knowing another language besides English will give our students opportunities in future education or jobs that will set them apart from other students or employees. Students should definitely aim for the **State Seal of Biliteracy**. They can qualify for that by passing the AP or IB language exams or by testing with the STAMP test at overall Intermediate Mid level proficiency (i.e. earning 4 Competency-Based credits). But the goal for DLI programs is for students to reach **Advanced** level proficiency by high school graduation. To reach that level, they will need to commit to continuing their study of the language throughout high school and to earn a top score on an AP or IB exam. When they graduate high school, they will be well prepared to use their language and literacy skills in many jobs and definitely in college, no matter what field of study they choose.

From the [Seattle School Board Policy No 2177 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION](#):

The District is committed to teaching world languages in an immersion setting for grades K-5 in addition to world language classes and immersion language classes offered at District middle and high schools.

The goals of world language programs are for students to:

- Communicate in languages other than English;
- Gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures;
- Connect with other disciplines and acquire information;
- Develop insight into the nature of language and culture; and
- Participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world

In addition, an International Education offers Heritage speakers opportunities to enhance literacy and academic skills in their native language.

The result of participation in a Dual Language Immersion program from kindergarten through grade 12 should be advanced level proficiency at the end of high school in two languages.