

## Friday Memo Update – 2409SP Competency-Based Credits

Seattle Public Schools is in its 8th year of offering Competency-Based World Language Credit testing opportunities to students who speak, understand, read and write in a world language other than English. Since 2011, hundreds of students, including a number of 8th grade Dual Language Immersion, as well as English Language Learner (ELL) students, have qualified to earn 1-4 World Language credits in a number of languages spoken in our district.

### 2017-2018 Test Results Summary

Below is a summary of World Language Competency-Based Credit test results for Seattle Public Schools for 2017-2018. This year, more than 600 students tested in 29 languages. Of those, **563 completed their testing and earned credits**: 49% of them qualified for 4 credits, 22% for 3 credits, 23% for 2 credits, and 6% for 1 credit. Total credits earned was 1,767 at a testing cost of about \$18,130, or \$10.26 per credit. The high number of students earning 4 credits, which will qualify them as “Proficient” in that language for the Seal of Biliteracy, is noteworthy given that 43% of the students tested this year were 8<sup>th</sup> graders (mainly Dual Language Immersion students, plus ELL-qualified students in several middle schools).

Table 1. List of Languages and Credits Earned

Language	1 Credit Count	2 Credits Count	3 Credits Count	4 Credits Count	Total Count	1 Credit %	2 Credits %	3 Credits %	4 Credits %	Total %	Total Credits Earned	% of Credits Earned
Amharic		3	3	13	19	0%	16%	16%	68%	100%	67	4%
French	1	7	1	4	13	8%	54%	8%	31%	100%	34	2%
Japanese	1	29	7	6	43	2%	67%	16%	14%	100%	104	6%
Mandarin - Simp Char	16	9	15	26	66	24%	14%	23%	39%	100%	183	10%
Somali	3	8	14	7	32	9%	25%	44%	22%	100%	89	5%
Spanish	11	55	55	113	234	5%	24%	24%	48%	100%	738	42%
Tagalog			4	19	23	0%	0%	17%	83%	100%	88	5%
Tigrinya		1	2	9	12	0%	8%	17%	75%	100%	44	2%
Vietnamese	1	4	15	28	48	2%	8%	31%	58%	100%	166	9%
20 other languages*	3	11	7	52	73	4%	15%	10%	71%	100%	254	14%

\*total count is less than 12

Other languages include Arabic, Burmese, Cambodian, Cantonese, Fur, German, Italian, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin-Traditional Char, Mongolian, Oromo, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Swahili, Thai, Turkish, Urdu

Table 2. Credits Earned

Credits Earned:	1 Credit Count	2 Credits Count	3 Credits Count	4 Credits Count	Total Count
Count of Students:	36	127	123	277	563
% of Students:	6%	23%	22%	49%	100%
				*Level for Seal of Biliteracy	

Table 3. Total Credits and Cost per Credit

	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>Total %</b>
	<b>1767</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Cost per:</b>	<b>\$ 10.26</b>	

Table 4. Count of Students by Grade Level

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Count of Students</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Grade 8*	243	43%
Grade 9	41	7%
Grade 10	32	6%
Grade 11	130	23%
Grade 12	117	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>100%</b>
*includes Dual Language Immersion Students at Hamilton, Mercer, Denny Intl Schools		

Table 5. Testing Companies and Cost

<b>Testing Companies and Costs</b>	<b>Count of Students</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
Avant STAMP	383	\$16.90	\$ 6,473
Avant WorldSpeak	104	\$16.90	\$ 1,758
ACTFL WPT-OPic	0	\$140	\$ -
ALTA Language Testing - Wr & Sp	64	\$120	\$ 7,680
ALTA Language Testing - Wr only	0	\$60	\$ -
WAFLT Custom Tests	12	\$185	\$ 2,220
<b>Total</b>	<b>563</b>		<b>\$ 18,130</b>
<b>Average cost per student</b>			<b>\$ 32.20</b>

### Costs and Funding for Testing

From 2012-2014, Seattle received funding for the testing from the Road Map World Language Credit Program, a grant funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the Road Map ELL Work Group. In 2014, the Road Map ELL Work Group produced and then translated a [video](#) about the program dubbed into the top languages of Seattle and South King County. This continues to be an effective tool for informing students, families, community members, and educators about this opportunity. That initiative has now expanded into the “[Speak Your Language](#)” Campaign, relaunched in August 2017 by [One America](#).

We also continue to work with the testing companies to develop less expensive and easier to administer assessments. We were very fortunate that Avant Assessment began offering the new WorldSpeak test, similar to our Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT) Custom Test (also supported by Avant), but available at a much lower cost. In fact, because of our district and the Road Map region’s large volume of Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) tests, Avant offered us WorldSpeak at just \$16.90/student this past year. (This compares to \$140 per student for the ALTA tests that we were previously using for Somali, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.) Table 6 below shows the continued growth in number of students tested (more than double since 2014-2015), while testing costs have dropped steadily.

Table 6. Comparisons from 2014-2018

	School Year	1 Credit Count	2 Credits Count	3 Credits Count	4 Credits Count	Total Count	# of Languages	Testing Costs	Cost Per Credit
<b>Count of Students:</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	36	127	123	277	<b>563</b>	29	\$18,130	\$10.26
<b>% of Students:</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	6%	23%	22%	49%	100%			
<b>Count of Students:</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	42	114	108	219	<b>483</b>	26	\$21,897	\$14.50
<b>% of Students:</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	9%	24%	22%	43%	100%			
<b>Count of Students:</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	23	77	92	244	<b>436</b>	29	\$25,674	\$18.00
<b>% of Students:</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	5%	18%	21%	56%	100%			
<b>Count of Students:</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	25	43	46	109	<b>223</b>	22	N/A	N/A
<b>% of Students:</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	11%	19%	21%	49%	100%			

For the past several years, ELL and International Programs have sponsored 11th and 12th graders from any high school across the district (both English Language Learners and general education) to complete the tests; 9th and 10th graders were not sponsored by the district, so they had to pay for their tests on their own (from about \$40-\$180, depending on the language). We also expanded opportunities in the spring of 2017 for English Language Learner 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to have the opportunity to test so that they would arrive at high school with credits in hand, plus having met a high school and college admissions requirement, and we expanded that testing in the spring of 2018.

As of fall 2018, the district is sponsoring students in 9th and 10th grade for testing, as well, to the extent that we can locate funds to cover testing costs. We hope that the district will be able to allocate funds to support this effort. We will be submitting recommended updates this year to Supt. Procedure 2409 to clarify which tests we are using and payment procedures.

### **Testing Days and Locations**

The SPS International Education World Language Credit Testing [web page](#) provides extensive information for students and families about World Language Credit Testing. For school year 2018-2019, we are offering testing dates open to all grade 8-12 students at the Seattle World School location 1698 E Union St, Seattle, WA 98122 Saturday mornings at 10:00 am: October 6, October 27, November 10, December 1, January 26, February 9, March 9, and March 30. We continue to work with the middle and high schools with significant ELL populations to encourage them to offer after school or Saturday testing opportunities at their schools, as well, to make it more convenient for students who have difficulty traveling to the Seattle World School on a Saturday.

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