* NEWLY PROPOSED SCHOOL BOARD REGULATIONS
* ORANGE TEXT REFLECTS FEEDBACK FROM THE 4/12/18 BOARD MEETING.

CREDIT-BY-EXAM FOR WORLD LANGUAGES REGULATIONS

Students who enroll in high school as freshmen before July 1, 2018, as sophomores before July 1, 2019, as juniors before July 1, 2020 or as seniors before July 1, 2021 are required to earn standard and verified units of credit as specified in the regulations of the Board of Education. A "standard unit of credit" or "standard credit" is a credit awarded for a course in which the student successfully completes 140 clock hours of instruction and the requirements of the course.

The Alexandria City School Board recognizes that instruction, learning and outcomes equivalent to those achieved in 140 clock hours of instruction can be attained in a variety of ways. Therefore, ACPS allows students in grades 6-12 with the ability to comprehend and communicate in languages other than English to earn up to three (3) standard (world language) credits through Division-approved national or international assessments.

I. DIVISION-APPROVED ASSESSMENTS

Credit-by-Exam measures students' foreign language proficiency through nationally-normed tests such as AAPPL, OPI, and the WPT for most languages. **Credits are awarded when students demonstrate at least a Novice-High proficiency level.**

Division-approved assessments:
- Have a standardized administration;
- Have been determined to be valid and reliable by an external body;
- Are used in other states or internationally;
- Are scored independently of the school division;
- Have been rigorously reviewed to align with the course objectives for which the waiver is being requested;
- Are scored either by a computer or an outside assessor who is proficient in the language of the exam; and
- Award standard credit(s) that equate with mastery of the world language course content and skills.

II. AWARD OF CREDIT

If successful, students will receive a "pass" grade for the equivalent course(s) which will appear as a "P" on transcripts to signify the levels have been successfully completed. Students will not receive a letter grade that will impact their grade point average (GPA).

Standard credits achieved through this option are considered equal to any other standard credit in terms of class rank, grade point average, extracurricular eligibility, and high school transcripts.

If students wish to graduate with an Advanced Studies Diploma (ASD), they need to earn world language credits. These are earned by taking three years/credits of one language (3 x 1) or two

years/credits each of two different languages (2 x 2). Students pursuing the Standard Diploma may apply a maximum of two credits of one language (2 x 1) to fulfill the elective requirement.

Students can earn up to three credits based on their level of proficiency as demonstrated by the exam. If a student was placed into a level III or IV class because of their language skills, they can take the test to earn retroactive credit for prior levels. **Multiple credits for the same world language course cannot be given.**

Students who earn world language credit(s) while in grades 6-8 will not be placed into a higher level class until grade 9, as they are not offered at the middle school level.

The exam is scored by either a computer or an outside assessor who is proficient in the language of the exam. Results are final and cannot be appealed. Credits will be awarded based on the following:

Proficiency Level	Credits Awarded	Next Course Placement	Next SHS* Placement
Novice-High	1.0	Level III	SHS II
Intermediate-Low	2.0	Level IV	SHS III
Intermediate-Mid	3.0	**AP** ~~Level V (AP not recommended)~~	**AP** ~~Level V (AP not recommended)~~

* Spanish for Heritage Speakers (SHS)

III. ELIGIBILITY

Students in grades 6-12 are eligible to take a credit-by-exam assessment if they can read, write, speak and listen in the language of the exam tested. Students must be able to complete all work independently at the Novice-High proficiency level or higher. For example, students must be able *in the language being tested*, to:

- Ask and answer simple questions;
- Make simple statements in a conversation in response to another person;
- Communicate basic information;
- Express likes and dislikes;
- Fill out a basic form; and
- Read and write a list of daily activities.

Students interested in earning credit-by-exam should first complete the *Self-Assessment Grid* available through the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Department of Curriculum & Instruction web page.

In lieu of the assessments offered below in Section V, students currently enrolled in World Language Level IV or Spanish for Heritage Speakers (SHS) III courses will take the AAPPL exam at the end of the school year. Taking that assessment allows them to meet the World Language requirement for the Seal of Biliteracy.

Students who achieve a Novice-High proficiency level or higher may also receive World

Language credit (for a lower-level language course) if they were initially placed in a higher-level language course and have not met the required credits for the Advanced Diploma.

Award of credit-by-exam does not convert any past failing course grade to a passing grade.

IV. TEST ADMINISTRATION

Students may register online through the ACPS Department of Curriculum & Instruction web page. Afterwards, students will be contacted to confirm the testing date, time and location.

A student may attempt to achieve credit-by-exam once per year. There is one main testing date in the fall and one make-up date in the spring. (Registration for spring testing requires approval of the World Language Instructional Specialist). Seniors who transfer into the school division mid-year may take the test in the spring. Both will be held on non-student days (i.e., teacher work days). **Assessments are offered to ACPS students at no cost the first time they test for a particular language. Re-tests are at the expense of the student and the cost varies per test.**

Parents/guardians will be notified of their student's results by U.S. mail.

V. TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

All students with disabilities and those identified as English Learners (EL) are assessed with appropriate accommodations in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

Students with Disabilities
Pursuit of credit-by-exam by students with disabilities will be prescribed by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.

English Learner Students
For English Learner (EL) students who have a home language of Arabic or Spanish, and who are at Level 1 or Level 2 on the WIDA *Access for ELLs* test, accommodations will be made to ensure test prompts are in the student's home language. For most tests, the directions and prompts are in English.

VI. WORLD LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT OFFERINGS

ACPS currently offers credit-by-exam for:

Languages	Type of Assessment	Current Cost for Re-takes
Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish	ACTFL Assessment of Performance towards Proficiency in Foreign Languages (Interpersonal Listening and Speaking/ Presentational Writing)	$15

	(Computer Based)	
Albanian (booklet form only), Cantonese, Danish, Greek (Modern), Haitian Creole (booklet form only), Hebrew, Norwegian, Persian, Farsi, Polish, European Portuguese, Turkish, Vietnamese	Writing Proficiency Test (Computer Based)	$70
Bengali, Indonesian, Pashto, Brazilian Portuguese	Oral Proficiency Interview (Computer Based)	$105
Afrikaans, Akan-Twi, Armenian, Assyrian, Azerbaijani, Baluchi, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chavacano, Czech, Dari, Dutch, Finnish, Ga, Georgian, Guajarati, Hausa, Hmong-Mong, Hungarian, Ilocano, Iraqi, Javanese, Kazakh, Kikongo-Kongo, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Krio, Kurdish-Kurmanji, Kurdish-Sorani, Lao, Levantine, Lingala, Malay, Malayalam, Mandingo-Bambara,	Oral Proficiency Interview	$119-$139

Mongolian, Nepali, Punjabi, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian, Sindhi, Sinhalese, Slovak, Somali, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Tajik, Tamil, Tausug, Telugu, Thai, Turkmen, Uighur, Ukrainian, Urdu, Uzbek, Wolof, Yoruba, Zulu		
American Sign Language (ASL)	American Sign Language Proficiency Interview	- In person: $165 - Via videophone w/proctor: $185

In the future, as more languages become available through nationally-normed assessments, the above offerings may change. In addition, if the opportunity arises to partner with another jurisdiction, credit-by-exam for additional languages not offered by ACPS may be provided through the other jurisdiction's administration of such assessments. In such cases, the number of credits awarded may necessarily be adjusted to align with the administering jurisdiction's policies.

VII. SEAL OF BILITERACY

Since 2015-16, the Board of Education's Seal of Biliteracy certifies attainment of a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English by graduating high school students. The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to students who pass all required End-of-Course Assessments in English at the proficient or higher level (11th grade SOL), and who score an Intermediate-Mid level or higher in another language on a nationally-normed exam. The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded and placed on a student's high school diploma.

VIII. APPEALS

Assessment results for credit-by-exam are final and cannot be appealed.

Established:

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:4.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit, Virginia Board of Education (Oct. 2015).

Cross Refs.: IAA   Notification of Learning Objectives

IGBG	Homebound, Correspondence and Alternative Means of Instruction
IGBGA	Online Courses and Virtual School Programs
IGBF	English Learners
IKEB	Acceleration
IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
IKF-R	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements Regulations
IKFD	Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit: Credit-By-Exam for World Languages
JO	Student Records