

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: September 27, 2019

For INFORMATION:

Upcoming Board Agenda:

Yes

No

Agenda Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Tanja Mayer-Harding, Instructional Specialist for World Languages  
Jennifer Abbruzzese, Director of Policy and Board Initiatives

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Changes to [IKFD-R - Credit-by-Exam for World Languages Regulations](#):  
Addition of New World Language Assessments for Credit-by-Exam and Seal of  
Biliteracy Testing

### **ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

### **SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

### **FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

English Learner Services  
Academics

### **SUMMARY**

ACPS currently offers Credit-by-Exam for more than 100 World Languages. As more languages are available through nationally-normed assessments, the current list for Credit-by-Exam, the type of exams utilized for each language, and the associated cost for re-takes requires frequent additions. Currently, IKFD-R includes the list of offerings, and therefore **any revision to add additional assessments requires Board approval. This request for change is the third revision to these regulations since its inception 18 months ago due to the frequent need to update the current offerings. Staff proposes removing the ever-changing list from Regulation IKFD-R and maintaining the information on the ACPS website.** Therefore, any future changes would not require School Board approval.

General information on Credit-by-Exam is available on the ACPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction's web page at: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/2313>.

The current list of languages offered for Credit-by-Exam is available at:  
<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2315>.

## BOARD BRIEF

WorldSpeak, a newly available assessment for World Language proficiency, is being recommended as an assessment for Credit-by-Exam and Seal of Biliteracy testing. WorldSpeak is a computer-based assessment for the following languages: Amharic, Armenian, Chin (Hakha), Czech, Filipino (Tagalog), Haitian- Creole, Hmong, Ilocano, Samoan, Somali Maay Maay, Tamil, Telugu, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Yup'ik.

In summary, staff proposes the following two changes to the regulation:

- a. Removing the list of available language assessments from the regulations as they are already available on the ACPS website; and
- b. Adding WorldSpeak, a newly available proficiency assessment.

### BACKGROUND

In April 2018, the School Board approved [Policy IKFD: Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit: Credit-by-Exam for World Languages](#) and [Regulation IKFD-R](#). This policy allows students to earn World Language high school credits through Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) approved assessments. In the past year, ACPS contracted with Language Testing International, which offers assessments in over 100 languages. However new assessments, such as WorldSpeak, have become available since that time.

**The ever-expanding list of available assessments for World Languages Credit-by-Exam has led to the program's rapid success after its first full year of implementation. To date:**

Student Assessment Data	Number of Students
Students Taking an Assessment through Credit-by-Exam	130
Students Earning Credits	128
Multilingual Students (Non-International Academy)	35
Multilingual Students (International Academy)	93
Students with Accommodations	6
Students Grades 9-12	124
Students Grades 6-8	4
Students Earning Three Credits	122
Students Earning Two Credits	4
Students Earning One Credit	2
Students Earning Zero Credits	2
Different Languages Assessed	16
Students Earning Seal of Biliteracy	336
Students Earning Seal of Biliteracy Through Credit-by-Exam	122
Students Earning Seal of Biliteracy through Level IV Honors and Spanish for Heritage Speaker III End-of-Year Assessment	214

## **BOARD BRIEF**

By allowing students in grades 6-12 who can understand and communicate in other languages to earn up to three credits through approved assessments at no cost, ACPS has enabled more students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy and the Advanced Diploma.

### **IMPACT**

The benefits of removing the list of frequently changing language assessments from IKFD-R and the recent addition of WorldSpeak include:

- a. More efficient use of staff and School Board time;
- b. Improvement of cost effectiveness; and
- c. Incorporation of assessments to include speaking and writing in multiple languages.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the proposed changes to Regulation IKFD-R. If School Board Members are unopposed to such changes, they will become effective on October 4, 2019.

### **CONTACTS**

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