

CREDIT-BY-EXAM FOR WORLD LANGUAGES REGULATIONS

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, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) allows students in grades 6-12 with the ability to comprehend and communicate in languages other than English to earn up to three (4) standard (World Languages) credits through division-approved, national or international assessments approved by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) for the World Languages Seal of Biliteracy.

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 Languages course content and skills.

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 Languages 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 four 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.

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

50
51 The exam is scored by either a computer or an outside assessor who is proficient in the language
52 of the exam. Results are final and cannot be appealed. Credits will be awarded based on the
53 following:
54

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	AP
Intermediate-High	4.0	AP or Advanced Topics (Offered for Chinese, French and German), if applicable	AP, if applicable
Advanced-Low	4.0	N/A	N/A
Advanced-Mid	4.0	N/A	N/A
Advanced-High	4.0	N/A	N/A
Superior	4.0	N/A	N/A
Distinguished	4.0	N/A	N/A

55 * Spanish for Heritage Speakers (SHS)

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57 If a proficiency assessment provides more than one modality, (i.e., listening, reading, speaking and
58 writing) and offers a rating for each mode of communication, the lowest rating will be used to
59 determine the number of credits awarded. (For example, if a student receives the following scores:
60 Listening: Intermediate 2, Reading: Intermediate 3, Writing: Intermediate 1, Speaking:
61 Intermediate 3, then the Writing Score of Intermediate 1 will be used to determine the number of
62 credits awarded. For VDOE-approved assessments that require multiple modalities, the speaking
63 and writing components are required.)
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65 ELIGIBILITY

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

- 71
- 72 ● Ask and answer simple questions;
 - 73 ● Make simple statements in a conversation in response to another person;
 - 74 ● Communicate basic information;
 - 75 ● Express likes and dislikes;
 - 76 ● Fill out a basic form; and
 - 77 ● Read and write a list of daily activities.
- 78

79 Students interested in earning credit-by-exam should first complete the *Self-Assessment Grid*
80 available through the ACPS Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership web page.

81
82 In lieu of the assessments listed in the Test Administration Section, students currently enrolled in
83 World Languages Level IV or Spanish for Heritage Speakers (SHS) III courses will take the exam
84 at the end of the school year. Taking that assessment allows them to meet the World Languages
85 requirement for the Seal of Biliteracy.

86
87 Students who achieve a Novice-High proficiency level or higher may also receive World
88 Languages credit (for a lower-level language course) if they were initially placed in a higher-level
89 language course and have not met the required credits for the Advanced Diploma.

90
91 Award of credit-by-exam does not convert any past failing course grade to a passing grade.

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93 **TEST ADMINISTRATION**

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95 Students may register online through the ACPS Department of Teaching, Learning, and
96 Leadership web page. Afterwards, students will be contacted to confirm the testing date, time and
97 location.

98
99 For students under the age of 18, parent(s), legal guardian(s) or the student's school counselor must
100 provide an electronic signature to verify that all information provided in the registration form is
101 correct.

102
103 A student may attempt to achieve credit-by-exam once per year. There is one main testing date in
104 the fall and one make-up date in the spring. (Registration for spring testing requires approval of
105 the World Languages Instructional Specialist). Seniors who transfer into the school division mid-
106 year may take the test in the spring. Both will be held on non-student days (i.e., teacher work days).
107 Assessments are offered to ACPS students at no cost the first time they test for a particular
108 language. Re-tests are at the expense of the student and the cost varies per test.

109
110 Parents/legal guardians will be notified of their student's results by U.S. mail.

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112 **TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS**

113
114 All students with disabilities and those identified as English Learners (EL) are assessed with
115 appropriate accommodations in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

116
117 Students with Disabilities

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

120
121 English Learner Students

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

125 English.

126

127 **WORLD LANGUAGES ASSESSMENT OFFERINGS**

128

129 ACPS currently offers credit-by-exam for more than 90 languages. As more languages become
 130 available through nationally-normed assessments, the offerings are periodically expanded. In
 131 addition, if the opportunity arises to partner with another jurisdiction, credit-by-exam for
 132 additional languages not offered by ACPS may be provided through the other jurisdiction's
 133 administration of such assessments. In such cases, the number of credits awarded may necessarily
 134 be adjusted to align with the administering jurisdiction's policies.

135

136 The current list of languages available for credit-by-exam, the type of assessment utilized for each
 137 language and the associated cost for retakes are all found on the ACPS Department of Teaching,
 138 Learning, and Leadership's web page.

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140 **SEAL OF BILITERACY**

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

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149 **APPEALS**

150

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

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154 Established: April 26, 2018

155 Revised: May 1, 2018

156 Revised: September 7, 2018

157 Revised: October 4, 2019

158 Revised: December 16, 2021

159

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

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163 8 VAC 20-131-110.

164

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

167

168 Cross Refs.: IAA Notification of Learning Objectives

169 IGBG Homebound, Correspondence and Alternative Means of Instruction

170	IGBGA	Online Courses and Virtual School Programs
171	IGBF	English Learners
172	IKEB	Acceleration
173	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
174	IKF-R	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
175		Regulations
176	IKFD	Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit:
177		Credit-By-Exam for World Languages
178	JO	Student Records

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1 **CREDIT-BY-EXAM FOR WORLD LANGUAGES REGULATIONS**

2 ~~Students who enroll in high school as freshmen before July 1, 2018, as sophomores before July 1,~~
3 ~~2019, as juniors before July 1, 2020 or as seniors before July 1, 2021 are required to earn standard~~
4 ~~and verified units of credit as specified in the regulations of the Virginia Board of Education. A~~
5 ~~“standard unit of credit” or “standard credit” is a credit awarded for a course in which the student~~
6 ~~successfully completes 140 clock hours of instruction and the requirements of the course.~~

Commented [1]: Struck as this is fully phased in.

7 The Alexandria City School Board recognizes that instruction, learning and outcomes equivalent
8 to those achieved in 140 clock hours of instruction can be attained in a variety of ways. Therefore,
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27 being requested;
- 28 ● Are scored either by a computer or an outside assessor who is proficient in the language
29 of the exam; and
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40 terms of class rank, grade point average, extracurricular eligibility, and high school transcripts.

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85 [and Leadership Curriculum & Instruction](#) web page, at

86 <https://www.aeps.k12.va.us/Page/2313>.

87 In lieu of the assessments ~~listed - offered below~~ in [the Test Administration](#) Section ~~V~~, students
88 currently enrolled in World Languages Level IV or Spanish for Heritage Speakers (SHS) III
89 courses will take the ~~AAPPL~~ exam at the end of the school year. Taking that assessment allows
90 them to meet the World Languages requirement for the Seal of Bilingualism.

Commented [8]: Strike - need flexibility which assessment to use; options change

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92 Students who achieve a Novice-High proficiency level or higher may also receive World
93 Languages credit (for a lower-level language course) if they were initially placed in a higher-level
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111 year may take the test in the spring. Both will be held on non-student days (i.e., teacher work days).
112 Assessments are offered to ACPS students at no cost the first time they test for a particular
113 language. Re-tests are at the expense of the student and the cost varies per test.

Commented [9]: Replace with: one for seniors only who are in need of credits to graduate in June.

114
115 Parents/legal guardians will be notified of their student's results by U.S. mail.

Commented [10]: is this or does this have to be the only option? can results be shared digitally as well?

116 **TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS**

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120 appropriate accommodations in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

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SEAL OF BILITERACY

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APPEALS

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- Revised: May 1, 2018
- Revised: September 7, 2018
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- Revised: December 16, 2021

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

8 VAC 20-131-110.

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172		<i>Standard Units of Credit</i> , Virginia Board of Education (Oct. 2015).
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