

Washington State Seal of Biliteracy



The Washington State Seal of Biliteracy is established to recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English. Students who earn the Seal of Biliteracy in North Thurston will receive a certificate, have this noted on their transcript, and will be able to add a Seal of Biliteracy to their diploma. The Seal is awarded at the end of the senior year. In addition, students can earn high school world language credits by performing well on all 4 areas of the exam.

To earn a Seal of Biliteracy, students must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in English by meeting or exceeding standards on the Washington State high school assessment of English/Language Arts and by meeting graduation requirements in English; and
2. Demonstrate proficiency in a world language other than English by one of the following:
 - Earning a 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement world language examination;
 - Earning an intermediate-mid level or higher on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency guidelines using an assessment approved by OSPI for competency credits; or
 - Pass an International Baccalaureate examination with a score of 4 or higher in world languages.

North Thurston recognizes the value of preparing students to be global citizens with the skills to communicate in English and other world languages.

The World Language Proficiency Credit Program and the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy are ways to earn high school credit for a language you already know.



NORTH THURSTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

North Thurston School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Officer: executivedirectorHR@nthurston.k12.wa.us, 360-412-4453; Section 504 Coordinator: Leslie Van Leishout, LVanLeishout@nthurston.k12.wa.us, 306-412-4484. Address for both: 305 College St. NE. Lacey, WA 98516.

NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WORLD LANGUAGE

Proficiency Credit Program & Seal of Biliteracy

2019



**Earn high school credit for a
language you already know!**

WORLD LANGUAGE Credit Program

STEP 1:

Determine if you're eligible

Do you speak a language other than English? Can you read and write it too? If so, you may be able to earn high school credit for your language skills.

Take a moment to think about your current language skills in the language you wish to be tested in (not English). If you can answer "Yes, I can do this fairly easily" to each statement, then you might be able to earn 1-2 credits when you take the language test. If you can answer "Yes, I can do this very easily" to all of the statements, you may be able to earn 3-4 credits.

- I can understand ideas on familiar topics expressed through phrases, short sentences, and frequently used expressions. (Listening)
- I can understand the main idea and some details in simple texts that contain familiar vocabulary. (Reading)
- I can exchange information with another person about familiar tasks, topics and activities. (Person-to-Person Communication)
- I can use a series of phrases and sentences to provide basic information about familiar topics. (Spoken Production)
- I can write descriptions and short messages and request or provide information on familiar topics. (Writing)

You must know English well, as the test questions will be in English.

STEP 2:

Take the test

Languages offered: Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Mandarin Chinese (simplified or traditional characters), Alaskan Yup'ik, Russian, Somali Maay Maay, Somali Maxxa, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Haitian-Creole, Ilocano, Samoan, Tamil, Polish, and Korean.

Pre-register for the test and pay the test fee. Your counselor has the pre-registration form. The cost of the test is \$60 for languages listed above. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

The test will be given Saturday, March 16, 2019 at North Thurston High School, from 8:30-1:30. You must pre-register and pay the test fee by February 28, 2019. You must arrive early. **You must bring photo identification to show prior to testing.**

STEP 3:

Earn credit

About a month after taking the test, your school counselor will receive your score and the number of credits earned. The school will then add the credits to your high school transcript. All credits earned will be graded as "Pass".

How to Prepare

Preparing for the test can help you earn a better score. Here are some ways to prepare.

Students are strongly encouraged to practice speaking the language and answering questions. During the speaking test, students will be given a question by the computer test, and will speak their answer into a microphone. It is *strongly* encouraged that students practice speaking into a microphone and recording device prior to the test. Students should also practice keyboard skills in the language to be tested.

For Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Arabic, Hebrew, Italian and Mandarin, take the **Practice STAMP test**. This is free and can be found online at: <https://stamp4s.avantassessment.com/avant/do/samplelogin>

For Yupik, Somali Maay Maay, Somali Maxxa, Tagalog and Vietnamese, be familiar with the contents of the Avant WorldSpeak Test Taker Guide and practice writing and speaking in your language of study.

If you have any questions on how to prepare for the test, talk to the world language teachers at your school.

