



Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How does the Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency benefit my students?

For students who will be entering the workforce after graduation, having a certificate to validate their language proficiency in addition to their transcript will help employers identify that this truly is a student that is able to use the language in a variety of contexts. For students opting for post-secondary education, IDOE is still in communication with university partners to determine if there can be a mechanism to award credit/placement to students who have earned this recognition as the world language proficiency will be measured by an external assessment rather than a locally-created one.

The 2017 and 2018 graduation cohorts take/have taken the English End-of-Course Assessment (ECA) as their graduation qualifying assessment in English Language Arts. Does this meet the requirement for the English Language Arts assessment or do they need to take ISTEP+?

Yes. If students in the 2017 and 2018 cohorts have passed the English ECA, then that will meet the English Language Arts Assessment requirement.

Can a student take the world language assessment more than once?

Yes, much like many other assessments, it is allowable for a student to take an eligible world language assessment more than one time in their high school career to show proficiency in the world language. Some exams may only be offered one time per year and others may be offered more than one time per year. School officials and corporation test coordinators should determine a local schedule for students based on the language assessments desired by their student population.

How are the world language assessments funded?

As an optional program, Indiana schools are encouraged to utilize the same or similar systems to what they have in place for other examinations in their school. Ultimately, the cost of the assessment may be incurred by the student.

What funding streams can fund the world language assessments for students?

Local sources of funding are encouraged to support students who are unable to afford the cost of an assessment.

Is there a “testing window” for the world language assessments?

The official “testing window” is flexible for schools to allow for the proctoring of a number of different assessments. Schools may choose to test students in late winter or early spring in order to have results prior to award ceremonies and/or graduation whereas other schools may elect to employ current exam schedules that will not provide scores until mid-summer. Both systems are acceptable and should be determined by the local school community while ensuring that both world language and English Learner students are eligible to participate.



What does a school do if there is no assessment listed for the world language for which my student is proficient?

At the present time, there is not a portfolio or alternate assessment system in place for languages not covered by the approved list of exams. Should a school have a language that they would like to have considered for addition to the [approved list](#), please contact the Indiana Department of Education to learn more about the exam review process.

Can a student take the world language assessment at any point during their high school career?

Yes. It is up to individual school corporations to determine guidelines for carrying out the process locally regarding which assessments will be utilized, when they are offered and to what grade levels. Students are eligible for the Certificate once they reach the ninth grade, but may elect to take the exam at any point prior to graduation during the high school sequence according to the local guidelines for scheduling.

How is the certificate presented to students?

This is a local decision based upon the type of honor schools would like to bestow upon eligible students. This may take place at a senior awards program, at graduation, at a whole school assembly or by mailing the certificate to the student after graduation. Schools should determine their own system for honoring their students for this accomplishment.

Are the medallions and seals required?

No. The medallions and the diploma seals utilizing the national label “Seal of Biliteracy” are optional and can be ordered from Velazquez Press by clicking on [this link](#). Local school corporations may choose to utilize a local designation on top of the required certificate and transcript designation from Indiana Code Section 2 IC 20-30-14.5, but the medallions and seals are purely optional.

How will the school gain access to the certificate to present to students?

Once a list of schools participating each year has been determined, an appropriate system will be established to ensure that schools who are choosing to honor their students and provide relevant data to IDOE will receive the digital certificate to personalize for their students.

Is there a waiver process to earn the certificate if a student does not pass the assessment in one of the languages?

Not at this time.

Is there a waiver process to earn the certificate if a student does not earn 8 credits in English Language Arts because they arrived to a United States school after the 9th grade year?

Not at this time.



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

May the Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency be awarded to students who have already graduated or be awarded retroactively?

As this is an optional recognition opportunity for students through their individual school corporations, this program only becomes effective during the year that the school chooses to begin participating and will not be retroactive for students who graduated in previous years.

Who is responsible for determining if this program becomes an option in our school?

High school administrators, counselors and/or district level administrators are the individuals responsible for determining if this opportunity will exist in each local district. Two points of contact per district will be required for each entity that chooses to participate.

Do credits earned by English Learner students in “ENL” count toward the Certificate?

If a student is enrolled in an ENL course that is coded as 1012 which should be taught by a highly qualified teacher in English language development, then up to four (4) of those credits can count toward the English Language Arts requirement of eight (8) credits. If a student is enrolled in an ENL course that is coded as 2188 by a highly qualified world language teacher, then the student would not be able to reach the six (6) credits required in a single sequence of a world language. However, if the student is proficient in his/her heritage language, the student could take one of the external assessments on the approved assessment list and receive six (6) credits in that world language if he/she scores at an Intermediate High level of proficiency.

My school gives the National (Language) Exam. Can we use this exam for the world language?

The National (Language) Exams such as the National Spanish Exam, National French Exam and so on may not be used as they are not designed to measure a student's proficiency. Proficiency is defined as the ability of an individual to use the language in a variety of contexts. The national exams do not provide opportunities for students to use the language in a spoken or written context and only assesses their receptive language skills. The only exams that will be found on the Approved Assessment list will be those that assess a student's productive language skills.

Does the WIDA ACCESS assessment count for measuring a student's English proficiency?

No. The only accepted mechanisms for validating a student's knowledge in English Language Arts is the graduation qualifying exam of ISTEP+ or for the 2017 and 2018 graduation cohorts, the English End-of-Course Assessment may be utilized.