

# World Language Competency-Based Testing

## General Information

**Who is eligible to take a World Language (WL) test:** Any student in grades 8-12 who has obtained language skills outside of the classroom or in the classroom with qualifying courses and grades (see below). Examples include:

- Heritage/Native speakers that have the ability to read, write, speak, and listen in a language other than English
- Students who have lived abroad and acquired reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in a language other than English
- Seniors who have completed their 3<sup>rd</sup> year or beyond in a world language and earned an A- or A in both terms (ex; 3A and 3B) may take a world language test in the corresponding language to show eligibility for the Seal of Biliteracy (see below/link)

**Which language can I test in:** Many (not all) languages are available. You will need to know how to speak, listen, read and write in your selected language. Please see your counselor for the list of available languages.

**What can I earn:** Up to 4 WL credits plus eligibility for the Seal of Biliteracy (Earned or Proficient).

**What if I already have WL credits from a class:** Students who are taking a class **can** receive additional credits by taking the competency-based test **but cannot exceed 4 total credits in the same language.**

Example #1: You earn 2 credits in high school Spanish. Then you take the WL test in Spanish and earn 3 credits, the equivalent to 3 years of seat-time. On your transcript, it will show the additional Spanish 1 credit (3 minus 2) for a total of 3 credits in Spanish.

Example #2: You earn 2 credits in high school Spanish. Then you take the WL competency test in Korean and you earn 3 credits. Your transcript will show 2 credits in Spanish and 3 credits in Korean.

**Is there a cost:** These tests are free to Bethel Students taking the test **for the first time.** Bring your photo ID.

**How do I begin?** Register for the WL Competency Test at your school! See your counselor for more information.

# Seal of Biliteracy

- **What is the 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, reading, listening, and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English. "Participating school districts with students eligible to receive the Seal, shall place a notation on a student's high school diploma and high school transcript indicating that the student has earned the Seal." ([RCW 28A.230.125](#))

The Seal will be available to districts to formally recognize students that demonstrate:

- **Proficiency in English**
  - passed the ELA state assessment or
  - met the ELA graduation requirements via alternative methods
- **Proficiency in a language other than English.**
  - Eligible to receive 4 credits on one of the state approved World Language Competency-Based tests
  - Receives a 3 or higher on the AP Language Exam
  - Receives a 4 or higher on the IB Language Exam

## **Who is eligible for the Seal?**

- Students who meet **BOTH** the Proficiency in English AND a language other than English will earn a Seal of Biliteracy-**Earned**
- Students who meet Proficiency in a language other than English **BUT NOT** Proficiency in English will earn a Seal of Biliteracy-**Proficient**

## **How will these students be recognized?**

- Marked on student's transcript (Earned/Proficient)
- Seal/sticker to go on diploma (Earned only)
- Certificate of Achievement of the Seal (Earned only)
- Medallions to wear at graduation (Earned only)