# Virginia Department of Education logo

# Virginia Seal of Biliteracy

## I. Acceptable Evidence of Proficiency – Revised February 22, 2023

**The following general criteria may be used to evaluate evidence of proficiency in languages other than English:**

* Pass a foreign language Advanced Placement examination with a score of 3 or higher or an International Baccalaureate examination with a score of 4 or higher; or
* s~~core 600 or higher on a Latin SAT II test (SAT Subject Test); or~~ – Test discontinued by College Board as of January, 2021.
* Receive a rating of Intermediate-Mid or higher on a nationally or internationally available assessment of proficiency across language skills based on The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines; or
* Pass a foreign government’s approved language exam, or a nation’s high school level standardized exam in a language from a country in which the language is taught in school at a level comparable to Intermediate-Mid or higher on the ACTFL proficiency scale; or
* Provide evidence of success at the B1 level or higher on an assessment authorized through the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR); or
* Provide evidence of attaining Level 3.0 or higher on the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI); or
* provide evidence of attaining an Intermediate level or higher rating on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI:ASL); or
* If no Advanced Placement examination or other nationally or internationally validated assessment exists and the school division can certify to the Superintendent that the test meets the rigor of a four-year high school course of study in that foreign language, passing a school division language examination that, at a minimum, assesses speaking, reading, listening, and writing in a language other than English at the Intermediate-Mid proficiency level or higher. **Any school division language examination offered as evidence for awarding the Seal of Biliteracy shall be approved in advance** by the Superintendent of Public Instruction’s designee for the purpose of determining proficiency in a language other than English.

See the list of approved assessments on the following pages that meet the above criteria.

## II. Approved Assessments

* The assessments in the following table are currently approved as acceptable evidence of proficiency in languages other than English. The table includes the minimum requirements and scores. The list is updated annually. Please verify that you have the most recent version of the list by checking the [Virginia Seal of Biliteracy Website](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/diploma_seals/seal_of_biliteracy/index.shtml).
* **Languages Other Than English -** The following options are acceptable evidence of proficiency in any language for which an assessment is available. **Note: Assessments that meet the general criteria in section I may be also be accepted, even if they are not individually listed below.**
* **Note:** If a test has no composite score, use the lowest score on the test that involves literacy and/or communication with others for the proficiency rating. **Sub-scores may not be averaged to arrive at a passing score. If any required sub-score is below the benchmark, then the student is not eligible to receive the Seal of Biliteracy.**

| **Assessment or Evidence** | **Languages** | **Minimum Score** | **Minimum Requirements/ Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**AAPPL**](http://aappl.actfl.org/)  Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages | Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), English, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, ~~Russian\*~~, Spanish, and Thai. | I-3 | Must include at least the following two components (lowest score must be I-3 or higher):   * Interpersonal Listening and Speaking (speaking component) * Presentational Writing   \*Russian was discontinued by the vendor but is still accepted for those who have completed the assessment. |
| **ACTFL** [**OPI**](http://www.languagetesting.com/oral-proficiency-interview-opi-2) **/** [**OPIc**](http://www.languagetesting.com/oral-proficiency-interview-by-computer-opic)**, and** [**WPT**](http://www.languagetesting.com/writing-proficiency-test)  Oral Proficiency Interview and Writing Proficiency Test | See website for full list of available languages in each test type. | Intermediate-Mid | The ACTFL OPI/OPIc and WPT should include both components to be accepted as evidence.  Alternatively, students taking only the OPI/OPIc or WPT individually may submit supplemented evidence of proficiency in either the listening/speaking or reading/writing domains.  I.E., students taking only the OPI would submit supplemental evidence of reading/writing proficiency at the intermediate-mid level or higher; students taking only the WPT would submit supplemental evidence of listening/speaking proficiency at the intermediate-mid level or higher.  The supplemental evidence should follow the standards of evidence outlined in the Acceptable Evidence of Proficiency guidelines. |
| [**ALIRA**](http://www.languagetesting.com/alira-the-actfl-latin-interpretive-reading-assessment)  ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment | Latin | I-3 | Interpretive Reading Test |
| [**AJA Language Proficiency Assessment**](https://ajalang.com/)  Tamil Proficiency Test | Tamil | Intermediate-Mid | Must include the Speaking and Writing portions of the test with the lowest rating being Intermediate-Mid or higher. |
| [**AP**](https://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/ap/coordinate/prep/language)  Advanced Placement Language Examination | Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Spanish | 3 | Full Test |
| [**ASLPI**](https://www.gallaudet.edu/the-american-sign-language-proficiency-interview/aslpi/)  American Sign Language Proficiency Interview | American Sign Language (ASL) | 3.0 | Full Test |
| [**ALTA**](https://www.altalang.com/language-testing/seal-of-biliteracy/)  ALTA Language Services Inc. | See website for list of 100+ languages available. | 6  Intermediate-Mid | Must include the Speaking and Writing portions of the test with the lowest rating being equivalent to Intermediate-mid or higher. |
| **ALTE**  The Association of Language Testers in Europe | Any available language. See note | B1 | Exams certified by the ALTE should be accepted at the same B1 level as other CEFR assessments. |
| [**Avant STAMP4S**](https://avantassessment.com/stamp)  Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency | Arabic, English, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Simplified, Mandarin Traditional, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish | Intermediate-Mid or STAMP Level 5 | Must include the Speaking and Writing portions of the test with the lowest rating being Intermediate-Mid or higher. |
| [Avant STAMP-WS](https://avantassessment.com/stamp-ws)  (Formerly **World Speak)** | Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Chin (Hakha), Chuukese, Czech, English, Filipino, French, German, Haitian Creole, Hawaiian, Hebrew 7-16, Hindi, Hmong, Ilocano, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Korean, Mandarin Simplified, Mandarin Traditional, Marathi, Marshallese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Somali Maay Maay, Somali Maxaa, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil, Telugu, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yoruba, Yup'ik, Zomi | Intermediate-Mid or STAMP Level 5 | Full test. No sub-score below 5 |
| [Avant STAMP Monolingual](https://avantassessment.com/stamp-monolingual) | Arabic, Spanish | Intermediate-Mid or STAMP Level 5 | Must include the Speaking and Writing portions of the test with the lowest rating being Intermediate-Mid or higher. |
| [Avant STAMP for ASL](https://avantassessment.com/stamp-american-sign-language-asl) | American Sign Language (ASL) | Intermediate-Mid or STAMP Level 5 | Full Test. No sub-score below Intermediate-mid or STAMP level 5. |
| [Avant STAMP for Latin](https://avantassessment.com/stamp-latin) | Latin | Intermediate-Mid | Full Test. |
| [**BaFL**](http://www.deo.uni-sofia.bg/en/testing/distance)  Standardized Test in Bulgarian as a Foreign Language | Bulgarian | B1 | Must include the Speaking and Writing portions of the test with the lowest rating being B1 or higher. |
| [**Cambridge International Exam – A level**](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-international-as-and-a-levels/) | Afrikaans, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, Tamil, Urdu | D | Correlated results should be equivalent to a CEFR rating of at least B1 or an ACTFL rating of at least Intermediate-Mid. |
| [**Cambridge International Exam –AS level**](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-international-as-and-a-levels/) | Afrikaans, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish, Tamil, Urdu | A | Correlated results should be equivalent to a CEFR rating of at least B1 or an ACTFL rating of at least Intermediate-Mid. |
| [**DELE**](https://www.dele.org/)  Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera | Spanish | B1 | Must include the Speaking and Writing portions of the test with the lowest rating being B1 or higher. |
| [**DELF and DALF**](https://www.france-education-international.fr/diplome/delf-tout-public)  Diplôme d’études en langue française and Diplôme Approfondi de langue française | French | B1 | Must include the Speaking and Writing portions of the test with the lowest rating being B1 or higher. |
| [**DSD**](https://www.auslandsschulwesen.de/Webs/ZfA/DE/Deutsch-lernen/DSD/dsd_node.html)  Das Deutsche Sprachdiplom | German | B1 | Must include the Speaking and Writing portions of the test with the lowest rating being B1 or higher. |
| [**ECL**](https://eclexam.eu/)  European Consortium for the  Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages | Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, English, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Rumanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish | B1 | Full test. Accepted at the same B1 level as other CEFR correlated assessments |
| [**Ellinomatheia**](http://www.greek-language.gr/greekLang/certification/)  CEFR approved examination offered by the Greek Ministry of Education. | Greek | B1 | Full test. Accepted at the same B1 level as other CEFR assessments. |
| **Fairfax County PALS**  Locally developed *Performance Assessment for Language Students* (PALS). ([Email](mailto:ccandros@fcps.edu) the Fairfax County Language Coordinator for more information) | Local decision | Meets Expectations | End of Course (Fourth Quarter) PALS for Level Four or above with a minimum rating of Meets Expectations. |
| **Fairfax County *World Languages Credit Exam***  Locally developed WPT for heritage speakers. ([Email](mailto:ccandros@fcps.edu) the Fairfax County Language Coordinator for more information) | Local decision | 18 | Full Test  A speaking assessment may be required if there is any reason to believe that the speaking proficiency would be lower than the writing proficiency. |
| [**Goethe-Zertifikat B1**](https://www.goethe.de/en/spr/kup/prf/prf/gb1.html)  German exam for young people and adults | German | B1 | Must include the Speaking and Writing portions of the test with the lowest rating being B1 or higher. |
| **IB**  [International Baccalaureate Exams – Language B Exams: Standards Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL)](https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/language-acquisition/language-b-sl-and-hl/) | All IB languages | 4 | Available only to students currently enrolled in IB programs. |
| **IB**  [International Baccalaureate Exams – Language A: Language and Literature.](https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/language-and-literature/language-a-literature-slhl/) | All IB languages | 4 | Available only to students currently enrolled in IB programs. |
| **IB**  [International Baccalaureate Exams – Classical Languages Exam: Standards Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL)](https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/language-acquisition/classical-languages/) | Latin, Classical Greek | 4 | Available only to students currently enrolled in IB programs. |
| [**LAS Links Español Form B**](https://laslinks.com/las-links-espanol/) | Spanish | 470 | Proficiency Level 3 AND a scaled score of 470 or higher is required. |
| **LinguaFolio®**  [Virginia LinguaFolio Website](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/foreign_language/linguafolio/index.shtml)  [NCSSFL LinguaFolio 2020](https://ncssfl.org/linguafolio2020/)  [Traditional LinguaFolio (paper)](https://ncssfl.org/linguafolio-materials/) | For use in languages for which there is no available approved assessment. | Intermediate-Mid | Portfolio must include sufficient evidence that has been verified by a teacher or scholar of the target language. Sufficient evidence shall include the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication and demonstrate language ability at the intermediate-mid level or higher in all three modes. |
| [**Loudoun County *World Languages and Cultures Credit Through Testing* (CTT) Exam**](https://www.lcps.org/Page/213095)  Locally developed Writing Proficiency Test for heritage speakers. ([Email](mailto:Suzette.Wyhs@lcps.org?subject=CTT%20Exam) the Loudoun County Language Coordinator for more information) | Local Decision | 18  Intermediate-Mid | Writing prompts must require respondents to formulate questions.  A speaking assessment may be required if there is any reason to believe that the speaking proficiency would be lower than the writing proficiency |
| [**(NEWL)**](https://www.americancouncils.org/services/testing-and-assessment/NEWL)  National Examinations in World Language | Arabic, Korean, Portuguese, Russian | 3  (plus sub-score requirement) | Full test with minimum sub-score of Intermediate-Mid in **both** speaking and writing. |
| [**OPIc**](http://www.languagetesting.com/oral-proficiency-interview-by-computer-opic)(All [available languages](https://www.altalang.com/language-testing/languages/))  Oral Proficiency Interview by Computer® | Arabic, English, French, German, Korean, Mandarin, Indonesian, Italian, Pashto, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog | Intermediate-Mid | Full Test |
| [**SIELE**](https://siele.org/en/conoce-siele)  Servicio Internacional de Evaluación de la Lengua Española | Spanish | B1 | B1 or higher in both the oral and written communication sections. |
| [**WPT**](http://www.languagetesting.com/writing-proficiency-test)  ACTFL Writing Proficiency Test | Albanian, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Danish, English, French, German, Greek (Modern), Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Persian Farsi, Polish, Portuguese (European), Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish | Intermediate-Mid | Full Test – should be taken in conjunction with the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) when possible.  Students taking only the WPT will need to submit supplemental evidence of listening/speaking proficiency at the intermediate-mid level or higher.  The supplemental evidence should follow the standards of evidence outlined in the Acceptable Evidence of Proficiency guidelines. |