



PPS Learning & Credit Options

WL-CBE Counselor FAQ

Updated July 31, 2024

WHAT IS IT?

The WL-CBE (World Language Credit By Exam) is the opportunity for PPS high school students to demonstrate proficiency in a target language in order to earn high school WL credit. PPS offers the test in over 30 languages. All tests are web-based. Most tests test reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Credits are awarded based on the student's lowest scores in the skills tested.

Some of the WL-CBE tests used include the **STAMP** (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) and the ALTA. Some tests have an option for a recorded response for oral language while others require video conferences with native speakers.

NOTE: In order to take the **STAMP 4S test**, students should be native English speakers or ESL students with high intermediate to advanced English. **Please carefully view the [website](#) for languages that require an ESL Intermediate or above before requesting a date for the student.** Other tests are made available based on the target language being tested.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR TESTING?

1. Students currently enrolled in a PPS high school (comprehensive, CBO or alternative)
2. Students must have at least intermediate levels of **LITERACY in the target language**.
Why? In order to earn high school credit in the target language, an intermediate proficiency is required. While the test should be challenging, the student shouldn't struggle to complete it.
If you are UNSURE if the student is literate in the language being requested, have them write a paragraph about school or another familiar topic and look for ease of writing in the language. If they seem to struggle to write, this might indicate that taking this test will be too difficult for them to earn high school credit.

*EXCEPTION: If the target language is not a written language, literacy is not required.

If you have any questions about this step, contact Diane Berthoin-Hernández, LCO Admin, at dianepbh@pps.net for additional guidance.

CAN STUDENTS RETAKE IF WL CREDITS WERE NOT SATISFIED BY RESULTS?

WL-CBE testing is once a year. In special cases, repeat testing may be allowed in the same school year. Contact LCO Admin at dianepbh@pps.net for further guidance.

CAN A STUDENT TAKE WL-CBE IF THEY HAVE ALREADY EARNED A FAILING GRADE IN THE LANGUAGE?

Per AD 4.20.043, a student may **not** earn credit via a proficiency exam for a course in which they failed to earn credit. Special permission of the principal is required to waive this provision.

In these situations, **it is required** that the school administrator write a letter on behalf of the student, detailing why a proficiency exam, in spite of a failing grade, would be a fruitful experience, and send to dianepbh@pps.net, cc'ing vs-wlcbe@pps.net. Letters must be specific to the individual student's situation.

WHAT IF A STUDENT NO-SHOWS THEIR EXAM DATE?

Students who miss their original date are still eligible to take their exam, but they will be added to a waitlist for the next date of their choosing. **REASON?** Some days have more student demand than available seats and we want to make sure that it's available on a first-come first-serve basis to those who want to test.

WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON TESTING DAY?

Students with special needs must review test details with parents/guardians and school counselor/case manager to ensure test setting meets appropriate accommodations. Case managers are required to be present for students for whom the test

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setting requires it.

The WL-CBE proctors are not permitted to read sections of the test aloud to students, nor may they translate any part of the test into English or the target language.

The LCO Admin will review 504's and IEPs of registered students to ensure that standard accommodations are provided by the WL-CBE proctors: preferential seating, breaks, and extended time. Because the test is not a timed test, any student who needs extended time may have the option to return to the testing site on a future date if the entire test is not completed by noon on the testing date.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO RECEIVE SCORES?

Most results are available in **4-6 weeks**. Some languages have fewer graders than others and may take more time to get back to PPS. Once received, the LCO administrator reviews the scores and determines the PPS credit earned. The LCO Office posts any earned credits to the PPS transcript and will email the student and counselor the results. If you have already completed the exam and would like a status update on your results, please contact vs-wlcbe@pps.net and we will respond within 24 hours.

WHAT HAPPENS WITH TEST SCORES ONCE PPS RECEIVES THEM?

Once test results are received, the LCO administrator reviews the scores and determines the PPS credit earned. The LCO Office posts any earned credits to the PPS transcript and will email the student and counselor the results.

NOTE: Students cannot earn duplicate credits from the tests based on previous coursework. Therefore, the LCO Office reviews transcripts to make sure duplicate credit isn't awarded for coursework already completed.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Learning & Credit Options (Virtual Scholars) office at vs-wlcbe@pps.net