

World Language Proficiency for High School Students

Districts must use ACTFL world language standards and offer elective language courses

Minnesota's high school graduation requirements include a minimum of seven elective credits, which may include world language elective credits. Districts must use world language standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and offer elective courses in this subject area. In addition to awarding course credit, schools may recognize students' proficiency in world languages through bilingual and multilingual seals and language proficiency certificates under [Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.022](#).

Schools may award proficiency seals and certificates to high school students who demonstrate world language skills

Minnesota schools may award Minnesota world language proficiency seals and certificates to high school students who demonstrate listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a world language:

- The **Minnesota Platinum Seal** recognizes students who demonstrate an advanced-low ACTFL level of functional proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.
- The **Minnesota Gold Seal** recognizes students who demonstrate an intermediate-high ACTFL level of functional proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.
- The **Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificate** recognizes students who demonstrate an intermediate-low ACTFL level of functional proficiency on a valid and reliable assessment.

American sign language is recognized as a world language for purposes of both seals and certificates.

High school students who demonstrate proficiency in a world language may receive a state bilingual or multilingual seal and school credits

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, Minnesota schools may award bilingual and multilingual seals to eligible high school students. To receive a bilingual or multilingual platinum or gold seal a student in grade 10, 11, or 12 must:

- demonstrate the requisite ACTFL level of functional native proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages other than English on either assessments aligned with ACTFL proficiency guidelines or on equivalent assessments;
- complete all English language arts credits required for graduation; and
- demonstrate mastery of Minnesota's English language proficiency standards.

A student who demonstrates an advanced-low ACTFL level of functional native proficiency in one language other than English is eligible to receive the state platinum bilingual seal, and a student who demonstrates an advanced-low ACTFL level of functional native proficiency in multiple languages other than English is

eligible to receive the state platinum multilingual seal. A student who demonstrates an intermediate-high ACTFL level of functional native proficiency in one language other than English is eligible to receive the state gold bilingual seal, and a student who demonstrates an intermediate-high ACTFL level of functional native proficiency in multiple languages other than English is eligible to receive the state gold multilingual seal. American sign language is recognized as a world language for purposes of these seals. School officials must affix seals to students' high school transcripts and may affix seals to the students' diplomas. Schools must not charge students a fee for the seals.

In addition to receiving seals, schools may award elective world language credits to students who demonstrate the requisite level of functional native proficiency in a language other than English and also may award community service credit if these students participate in teacher-directed, curriculum-related activities that support school or community bi-literacy.

Participating public schools may give students periodical opportunities to demonstrate their world language proficiency. The education commissioner must list assessments aligned to ACTFL proficiency guidelines on the department's website. Where valid and reliable assessments are unavailable, schools may rely on evaluators trained to use ACTFL proficiency guidelines to assess students' world language proficiency. Schools must keep appropriate records to identify high school students eligible to receive these seals.

MnSCU must award foreign language credits to students with bilingual or multilingual seals

MnSCU colleges and universities must establish criteria to award foreign language credits to students who receive bilingual or multilingual seals in grade 10, 11, or 12 and may award foreign language credits to students who receive world language proficiency certificates in grade 10, 11, or 12. Students who enroll in a MnSCU institution must request college credits for their seal or certificate within three academic years of graduating from high school. The law encourages the University of Minnesota to also award students foreign language academic credits.

For more information: Contact legislative analyst Lisa Larson at 651-296-8036.

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