

How State Agencies & World Language Associations can Collaborate to Support the Seal of Biliteracy: Case Study of Washington

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Global C.R.E.D. Conference
December 2-3, 2020

Land Acknowledgement

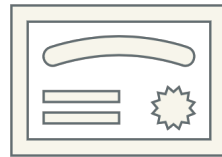




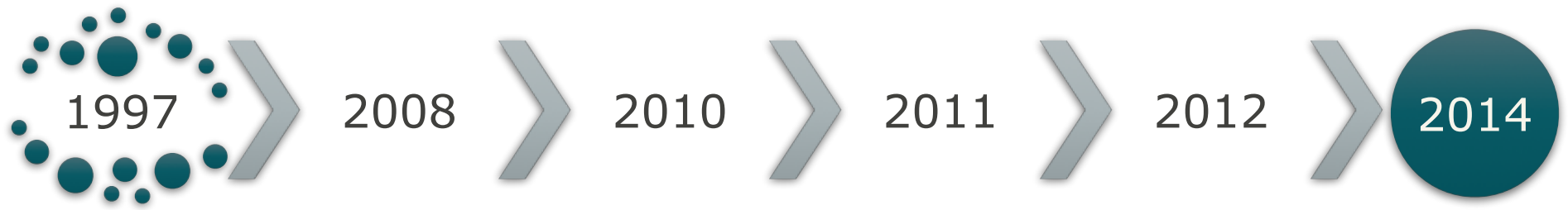
Washington's Journey to the Seal of Biliteracy

It began with a simple question from Michele's daughter's Russian teacher to the State Superintendent in 1997:

Why can't my students earn credits for Russian?



Journey to the Seal of Biliteracy Timeline



Initial
Inquiry

- *“Why can’t my students earn credits for Russian?”*



Competency-Based Credits

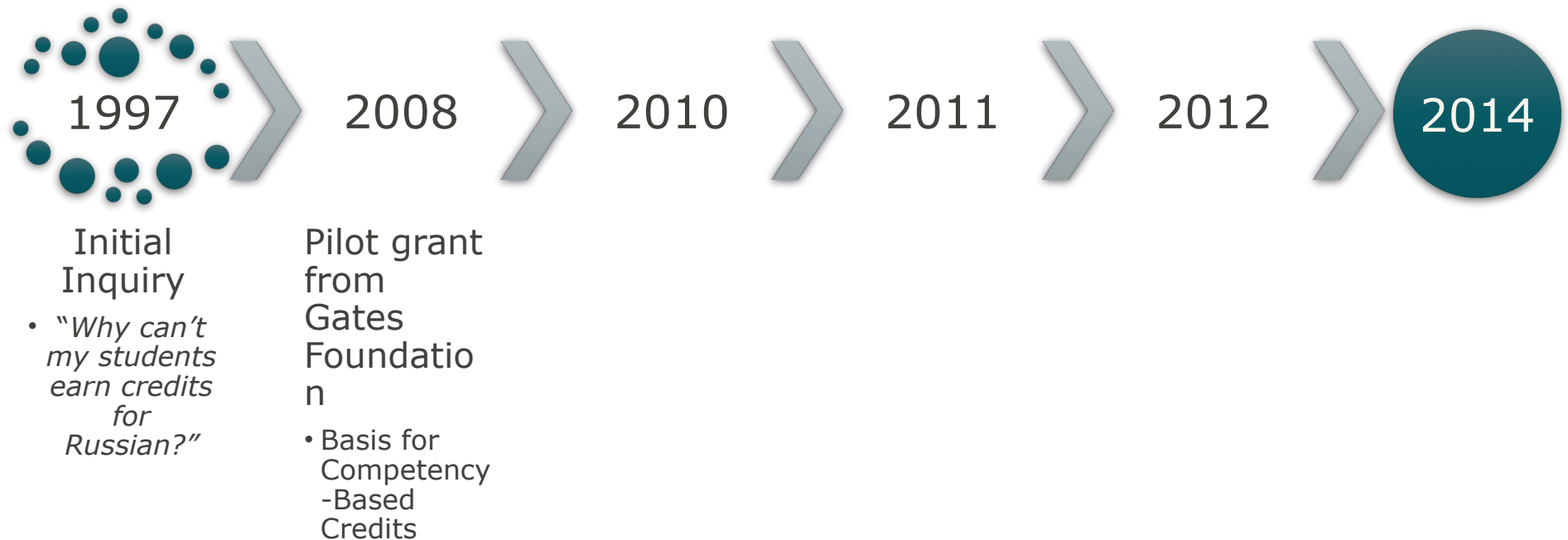
10 Years later, Michele went to work at OSPI –
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
(Washington State Dept of Education)



Washington Office of Superintendent of
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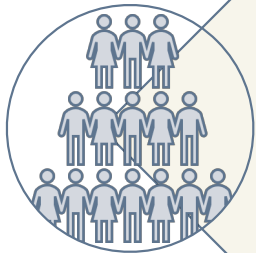
Journey to the Seal of Biliteracy Timeline





World Language Advisory Group

State Board of Education Convened World Language Advisory Group



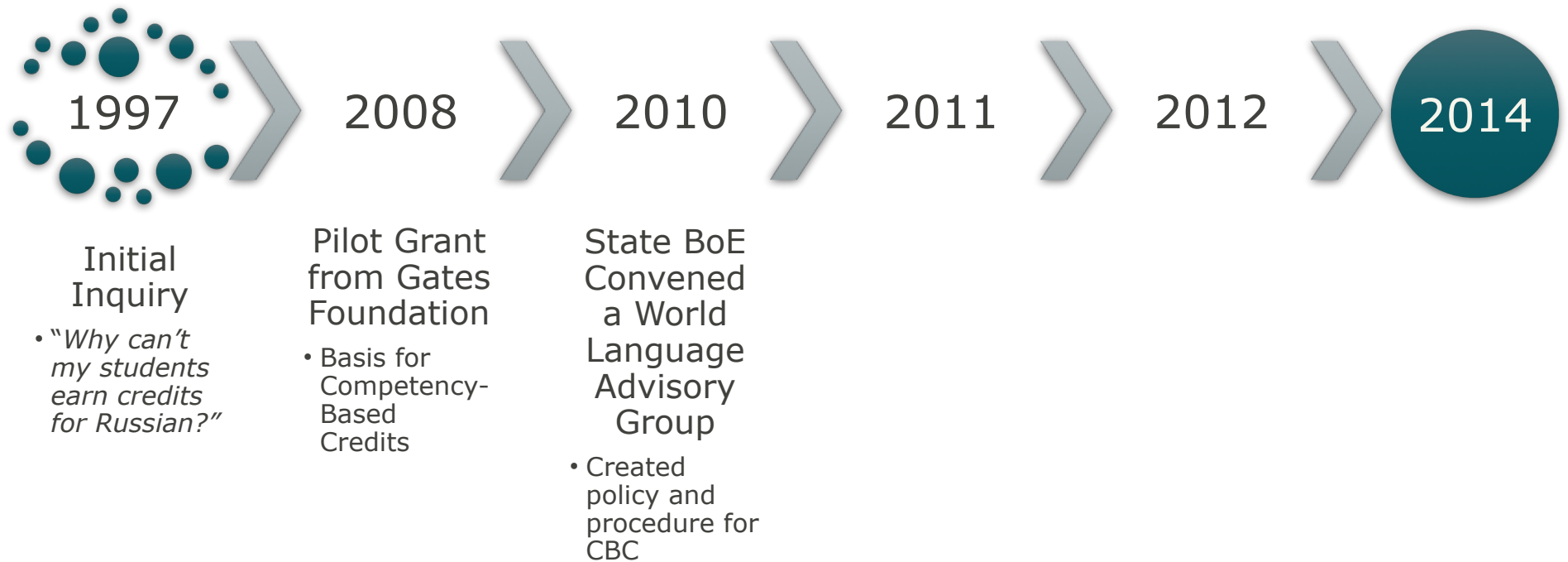
standardized world language proficiency assessments (STAMP tests)



[Sample Policy](#)

[Sample Procedure](#)

Journey to the Seal of Biliteracy Timeline





Washington World Language Assessment Days

Washington World Language Assessment Days

Launched in 2011

Opportunity for high school students to complete nationally recognized language proficiency assessments at a reasonable price

Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT) holds agreements with the testing companies and manages payments

State BoE and OSPI provide certificates and letters to the students and their school counselors



Highlights of Statewide Testing 2011-2012

District	# of Students
Aberdeen	31
Bellingham	30
Burlington-Edison	72
Ocosta	5
Seattle	203
Total	350+

Assessments Used 2011-2012

STAMP – STAndards-Based Measurement of Proficiency from Avant Assessment

- Developed by CASLS (Center for Applied Second Language Studies) at the University of Oregon for Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, (and now Hebrew)
- Tests Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking
- Computer-Adaptive

ACTFL – Assessments from Language Testing International

- OPI (or OPIc) - Oral Proficiency Interview (computer-based), available in more than 80 languages
- WPT - Writing Proficiency Test (in a few languages)

Proctored Writing and Oral Language Tests* (from OSPI)

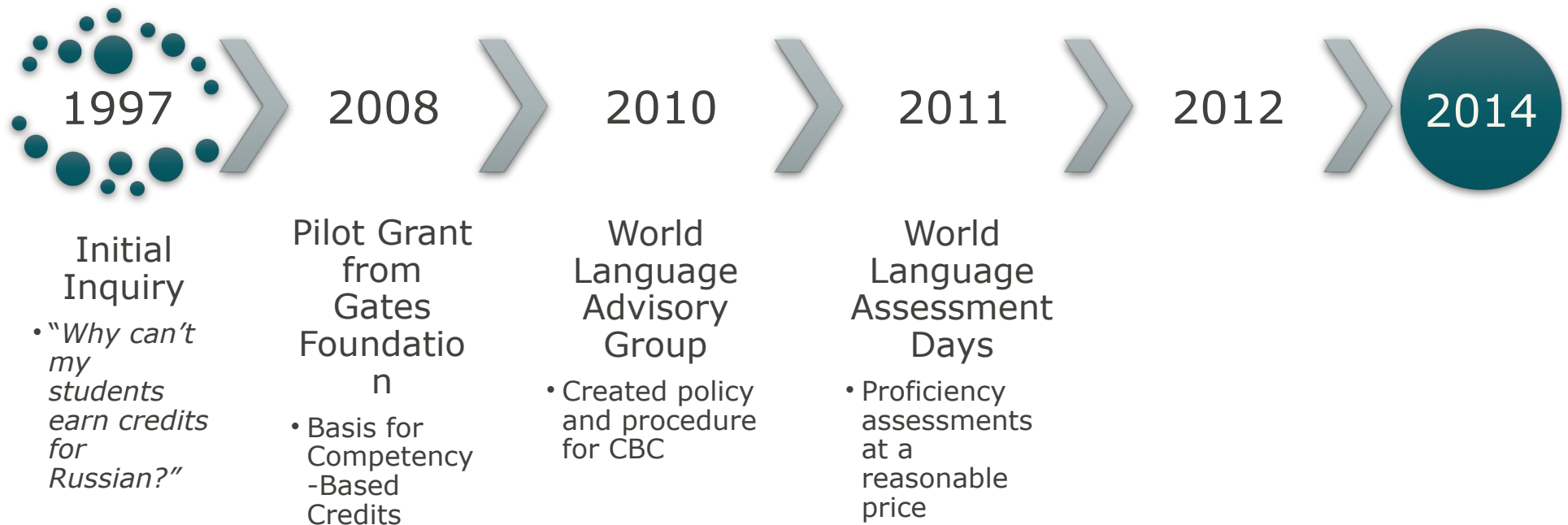
To evaluate **less commonly tested languages** like Somali, Marshallese, and Oromo, OSPI World Languages partnered with **CASLS** to select appropriate performance tasks for a Proctored Writing Test and Proctored Oral Language Test
(3 tasks each)

Proctored Writing Test takes
90 minutes

Proctored Oral Language Test
recorded via the web in
LinguaFolio Online (from
CASLS); takes about 30
minutes

Both are evaluated by
language professionals in the
less commonly tested
languages (recruited by
Monique Roske from M2
Language Consulting LLC)

Journey to the Seal of Biliteracy Timeline

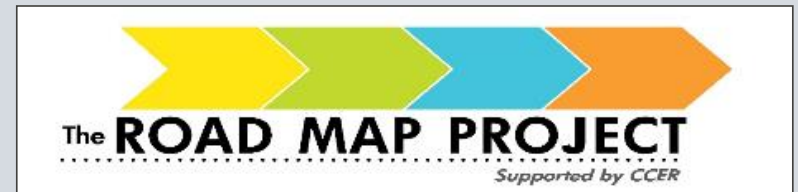




Road Map World Language Credit Program

Road Map World Language Credit Program (2012-2014)

Two-year grant (2012-2014) funded by the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** to the **Road Map Project** ELL Work Group, administered by the World Languages Program at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instructions (OSPI).



Key Partners:

- Seven districts in the Road Map Project: Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Seattle, and Tukwila
- Center for Applied Second Language Studies (CASLS) at the University of Oregon for support on testing and training in language proficiency
- Education Northwest as the evaluator

World Language Credit Program

Promotional Materials



HOW DOES IT WORK?

STEP 1: Determine if you're eligible
Do you speak a language other than English?

Can you read and write in it too?

STEP 2: Take the tests
Learn about the tests and sign up at:

www.k12.wa.us/WorldLanguages/StudentsEarnCredits.aspx

STEP 3: Get credit
Contact your high school counselor with your test results to add the credits to your school transcript.

That's it!

WORLD LANGUAGE CREDIT PROGRAM



Video about World Language Competency-Based Credits



Credit for Proficiency:
The Impact of the Road Map
World Language Credit Program
October 2014

Jason Greenberg Motamedi,
Ph.D. Zafreen Jaffery, Ed.D.



Road Map World Language Credit Program

Amount and Percentage of Students Who Earned Credits in 2014		
Qualified Credits	Percent	Credits
0 Credits	1	0
1 Credit	6	131
2 Credits	21	1,008
3 Credits	28	1,992
4 Credits	44	4,140
Totals:	100	7,271
		Program participants (N=2,364)

Most students (84%) earned 3 or more World Language credits.

Road Map World Language Credit Program

Percentages Broken Down by Language

Language	Program Percentage	Population Percentage
Spanish	59	42
Vietnamese	7	10
Somali	4	8
Ukrainian	2	4
Chinese (Mandarin)	4	4
Tagalog	2	3
Russian	3	3
Punjabi	2	3
Amharic	2	2
Korean	1	2
Arabic	3	2





Road Map Proficiency Report Conclusions

Finding 1: Students recognized the personal, cultural, and social value of bilingualism



Finding 2: World language credits gave students choices and the chance to graduate on time.



Finding 3: Receiving credits made students confident about being bilingual.



Journey to the Seal of Biliteracy Timeline





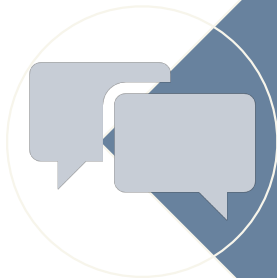
State Seal of Biliteracy SB Bill 6424
Signing on March 27, 2014

Photo courtesy of Washington State Legislative Support Service

In Washington State, Equity is Key for the Seal of Biliteracy



“For the purposes of this section, a world language other than English must include American sign language and **Native American languages.**”



“By December 1, 2017, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall submit a report to the education committees of the legislature that **compares the number of students awarded** the Washington state seal of biliteracy in the previous two school years and the languages spoken by those students, to the number of students enrolled or previously enrolled in the transitional bilingual instruction program and the **languages spoken by those students.**”



Equity Statement

Each student, family, and community possesses strengths and cultural knowledge that benefits their peers, educators, and schools.

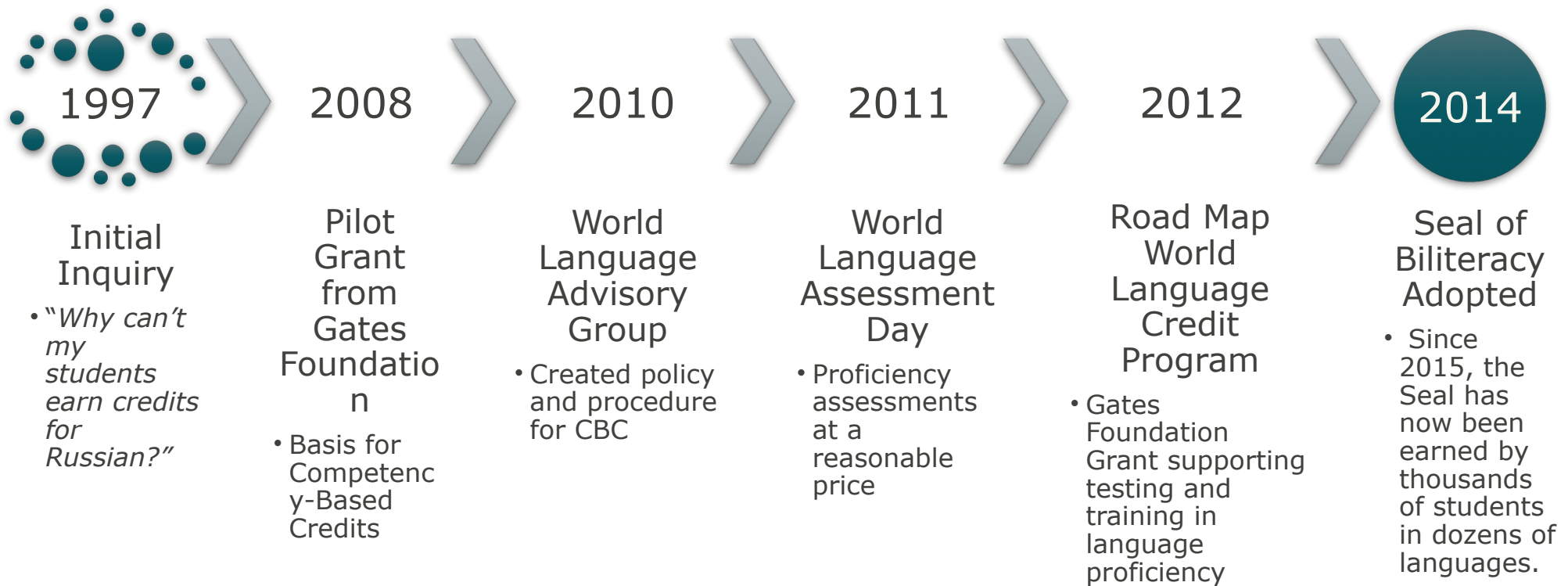
Ensuring educational equity:

- Goes beyond equality; it requires education leaders to examine the ways current policies and practices result in disparate outcomes for our students of color, students living in poverty, students receiving special education and English Learner services, students who identify as LGBTQ+, and highly mobile student populations.
- Requires education leaders to develop an understanding of historical contexts; engage students, families, and community representatives as partners in decision-making; and actively dismantle systemic barriers, replacing them with policies and practices that ensure all students have access to the instruction and support they need to succeed in our schools.



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Journey to the Seal of Biliteracy Timeline

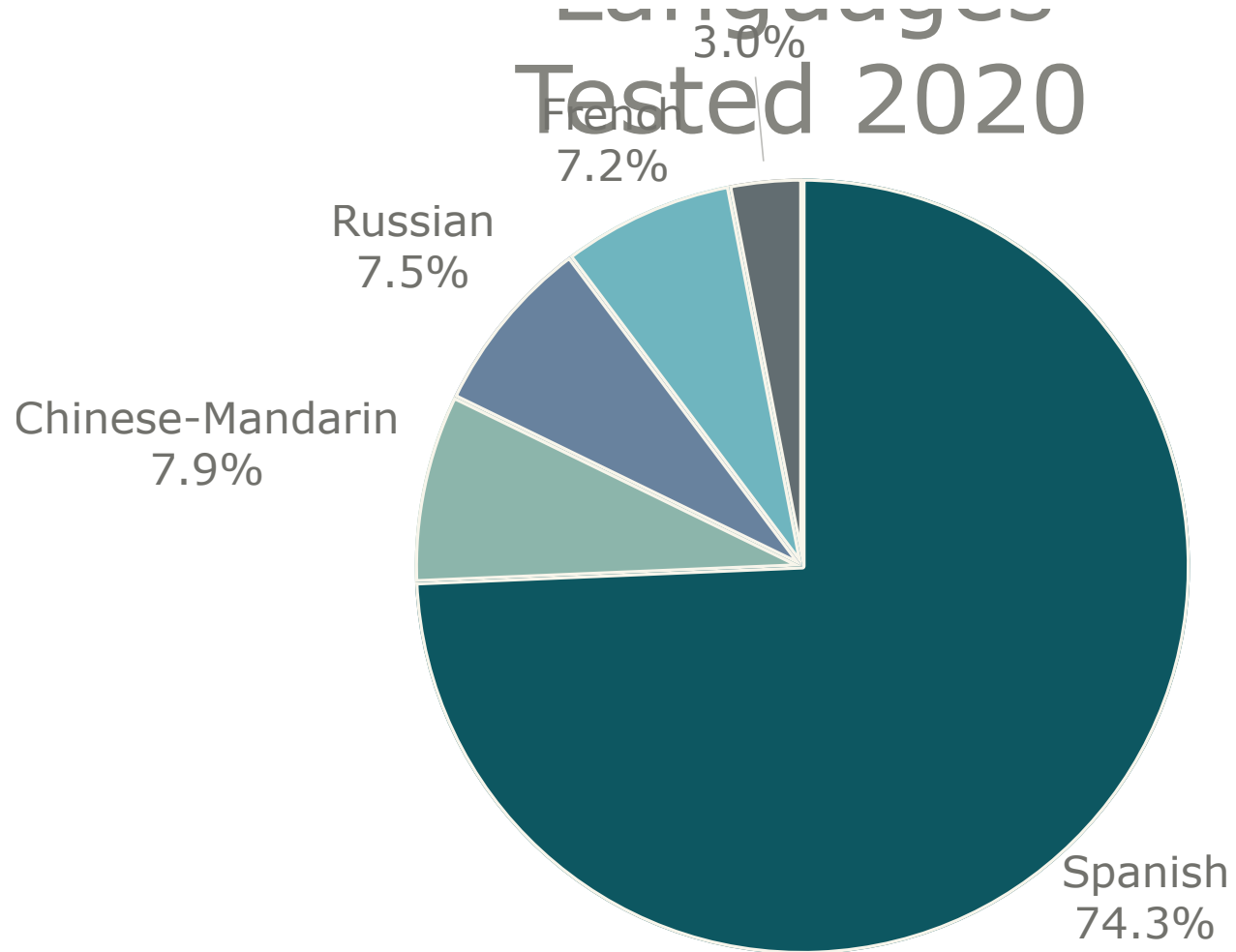


The Seal of Biliteracy in 2020

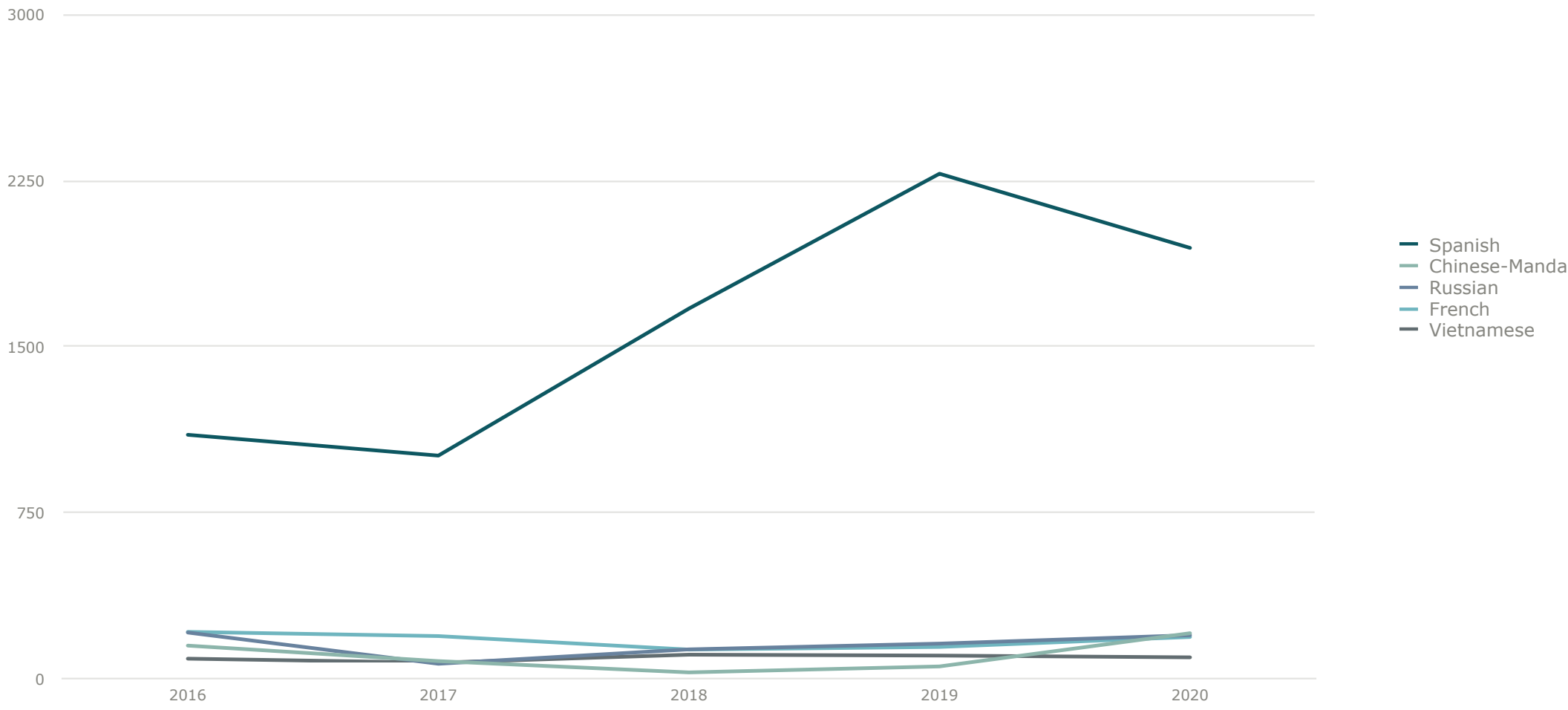
Testing Methods to Earn the 2020 Seal of Biliteracy	# of Students	% of Students
Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP)	1631	47.9
Advanced Placement (AP) Testing	732	21.5
Written Assignment & Speaking and Listening	347	10.2
ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL)	203	6.0
WorldSpeak	194	5.7
International Baccalaureate (IB) Testing	189	5.6
Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) & Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)	55	1.6
Custom Competency Test	27	0.8
Writing & Speaking	9	0.3
Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) & Oral Proficiency on Computer (OPIc)	8	0.2
American Sign Language	8	0.2
Total:	3403	100.0



Language Tested 2020



Trends of Top 5 Tested Languages



Heritage Speakers

	% of Heritage Speakers
EL Migrant	1%
EL Non-Migrant	13%
Non-EL Migrant	3%
Total % of Heritage Speakers	17%

EL or not	Migrant or not	2019	2020	Percentage Change
EL	Migrant	1.6%	0.9%	-44.0%
EL	Non-Migrant	13.9%	13.0%	-7.0%
Non-EL	Migrant	5.8%	3.1%	-46.3%
Non-EL	Non-Migrant	78.7%	83.0%	5.5%

Testing Companies are Now Expanding into More Less Commonly Taught Languages

Language Testing International AAPPL is now available in:

- Arabic, Chinese, English/ESOL, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Thai

Avant Assessment STAMP is now available in:

- Arabic, Cantonese, English, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin (Simplified & Traditional), Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian, Spanish

Avant Assessment has Launched WorldSpeak

WorldSpeak is now available in:

- Amharic, Armenian, Chin, Czech, English, Filipino (Tagalog), Haitian-Creole, Hmong, Ilocano, Samoan, Somali Maay Maay, Somali Maxaa, Tamil, Telugu, Turkish, Vietnamese, Yoruba

WorldSpeak is less costly to develop than STAMP, so **new LCT languages can be added** more quickly.



Low Stakes Testing

Retesting

- Students can **retest** if their results did not match their expectations

Earlier Opportunities

- In Seattle, test by 8th grade so that students have at least 1 or 2 credits when they arrive in high school, but can retest later to **earn more credits** (although most earn 3 or 4 credits by 8th grade)

Continuing Prospects

- Many bilingual students qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy (Intermediate Mid proficiency), but we urge them to continue developing their language proficiency and **test again for the Global Seal of Biliteracy at Working Fluency** (Advanced level proficiency)



WAFLT Testing Team

Continue to coordinate WAFLT Custom Tests in the Less Commonly Taught/Tested Languages

- “We never say No to a language”
(but it may take several months to find an evaluator)
- New languages added every year, including our first Native American Language, Quinault
- Evaluation costs may be higher for “Super” LCTLs

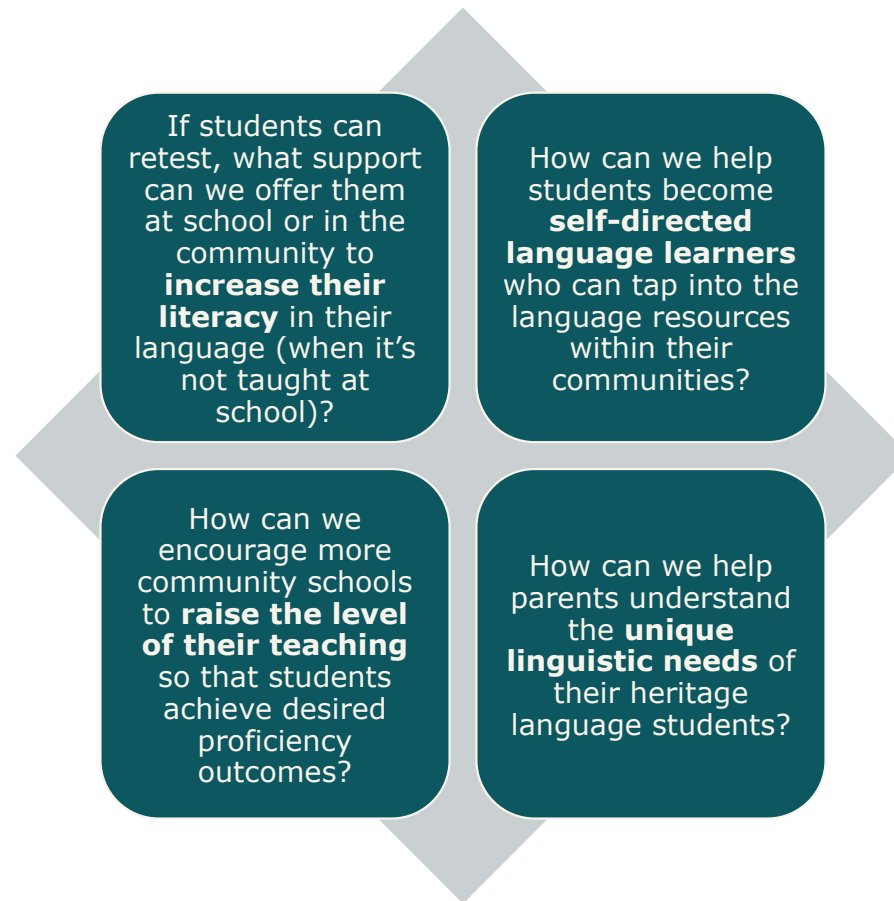
Mentor districts, schools, and community-based programs on technology and testing logistics

Awards and Recognition

The Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT) encourages all public-school districts to recognize students who qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy. Many districts present Seal of Biliteracy medallions to graduating seniors to wear at graduation. The Seal of Biliteracy imprint for creating embossed diploma labels or medallions is available on request to worldlanguage@k12.wa.us.

To help lower costs for smaller school districts in Washington State, WAFLT can offer limited supplies of Seal of Biliteracy medallions. Small districts can order them below at a cost of \$5 each (includes mailing costs). Please order at least two weeks ahead to allow for processing and delivery. If you have any questions, contact waflltesting@wafll.net.

Implications for language teaching, learning, and research



For more information, visit:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/world-languages/world-language-competency-testing>

<http://depts.washington.edu/waflttest/>



References

- Comprehensive Education Data and Research System. (2020). *Seal of Biliteracy Earned including Migrant and Bilingual* (vers. 2019–2020) [Data set]. CEDARS.
- Greenberg Motamedi, J., & Jaffery, Z. (2014). Credit for proficiency: The impact of the Road Map World Language Credit Program on student attitudes toward bilingualism and school. Portland, OR: Education Northwest.



Vision

All students prepared for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.

Mission

Transform K–12 education to a system that is centered on closing opportunity gaps and is characterized by high expectations for all students and educators. We achieve this by developing equity-based policies and supports that empower educators, families, and communities.

Values

- Ensuring Equity
- Collaboration and Service
- Achieving Excellence through Continuous Improvement
- Focus on the Whole Child



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Tagalog

Af-Soomaali

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

Kiswahili

РУССКИЙ

Tiếng Việt

日本語

नेपाली

فارسی

한국어

Español

Bosanski

العربية

українська

ภาษาไทย

Français

中文

Deutsch

