



Kentucky World Language Association

World Language Showcase Frequently Asked Questions

If students want to participate in the prepared performance competitions, does that mean that they must also do the three core events?

Yes, at Regionals only! With the new proficiency-based model, all students must be willing to demonstrate their abilities in a controlled assessment to be eligible for competitions. Students who demonstrate novice high in [two of the three](#) will qualify for State.

What if my students feel uncomfortable with one of the core performance events? Can they just do the other two and still qualify for State?

All students must participate in all three modes of proficiency assessment, even if they know or strongly suspect that they will not be able to achieve novice high in one or more. Teachers should encourage their students to attempt all three modes to gain experience and gauge the amount of improvement they need for the following year. Students who demonstrate novice high in [two of the three](#) will qualify for State.

How many students can I send?

Contact the appropriate regional director for registration details.

What is there for Level 1 students to do?

Moving forward, we hope that more students formerly labeled as “Level 1” will be able to achieve novice high proficiency and continue to State. Level 1 students who show promise or interest should still be encouraged to attend the Regional for the experience of taking the assessments as well as for the opportunity to interact with other language learners in an engaging environment.

If I’m busy performing assessments, who is watching my students?

As with any school field trip, please secure a sufficient number of parent/guardian chaperones before the day of the event.

How many students do I have to assess?

You must assess a number of students equal to or perhaps slightly greater than the number you bring. The teachers who bring the most students will also evaluate the most students. Teachers bringing only a few students may end up assessing a few additional ones depending on the scheduling logistics of the host site.

What are the chances that I will have to assess my own students?

Every effort will be made to avoid this situation. Please notify the regional director as soon as possible on the day of the event if you realize that this might occur.

Why is the training mandatory for the Showcase?

Because all teachers are now required to serve as evaluators, all teachers must be trained in evaluation methods so that the proficiency assessment is fair,

accurate, and standardized. It is unfair to ask trained teachers to have their students evaluated by untrained teachers. KWLA is sensitive to time and financial constraints teachers face. This year, we are offering a FREE, online workshop for Personal Development Credit.

I have a legitimate reason why I could not complete a KWLA training session. Can I still send students to the Showcase?

We sincerely hope that all teachers will be able to take advantage of the online video currently offered. If you have conflicts, please contact the State director as soon as possible and notify her of your situation.

What if I have had OPI or a District-sponsored proficiency training recently? Do I still need to do the KWLA session?

KWLA will accept your OPI and / or your district based proficiency training if it has occurred within two years.

Why did we change the Festival format? It was working just fine.

The Festival format was changed to align our state showcase event with the Kentucky Standards for World Language Proficiency and ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. In a sense, we are updating and modernizing the event to better reflect the expectations of the Kentucky Board of Education, and to help World Language instruction across the state reach national benchmarks. This change should be viewed as a positive step towards bringing our teachers and teaching methods to the cutting edge of 21st century World Language pedagogy.

Why is the event now called “Showcase and Competition?” What’s that about?

In response to member feedback, KWLA decided to reintroduce the competition aspect of the event. Students must still participate in three PMAs at Regionals (and demonstrate NH in two of the three), but will also compete in the more traditional categories of Art, Chorus, Dance, Drama, Film and Project. The [2014 Guidelines](#) reflect these changes and offer specific guidance and criteria for each event.

What is going on with Latin? Why do we have a single written test? And why has oral reading changed from a cultural proficiency event to a core performance (i.e. language proficiency) event?

Unlike Modern Languages, which have an existing proficiency standards document, proficiency standards for Latin are still in development. Because of this, the KWLA relies on the Kentucky Classical Association (KCA) to provide us the necessary information for proficiency assessment. For questions or further information specific to Latin, contact Andrew Gollan, KCA President, at andrew.gollan@fayette.kyschools.us