

CertAlert

# CERTIFICATION ALERT

Connecticut Educator Certification News from  
The Connecticut State Department of Education



May 2015

## CHANGE TO TEST REQUIREMENTS: WORLD LANGUAGES

On April 6, 2015, the State Board of Education adopted higher passing scores on required tests for certification to teach the following world languages: French (#018), German (#019), Italian (#020) Spanish (#023) and Portuguese (#317).

In February 2015, a panel of educators was convened to review assessments for educators seeking to teach world languages. This panel included a cross section of world language teachers from diverse districts and higher education faculty from universities that offer state-approved certification programs in world languages. Several tests were reviewed. The panel recommended continuing to require the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) for all languages. The computerized versions, the OPIc and WPTc, are also accepted. Other tests reviewed did not sufficiently measure oral language skills. The panel also recommended raising the minimum score requirements for both oral and written proficiency for the above five languages.

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Connecticut  
State  
Department  
of Education

The following score requirements are **effective September 1, 2015**:

Endorsement	Required Tests	Passing Score
French 7-12 (#018)	ACTFL OPI (or OPIc) ACTFL WPT (or WPTc)	Advanced Low Advanced Low
German 7-12 (#019)	ACTFL OPI (or OPIc) ACTFL WPT (or WPTc)	Advanced Low Advanced Low
Italian 7-12 (#020)	ACTFL OPI (or OPIc) ACTFL WPT (or WPTc)	Advanced Low Advanced Low
Spanish 7-12 (#023)	ACTFL OPI (or OPIc) ACTFL WPT (or WPTc)	Advanced Low Advanced Low
Portuguese 7-12 (#317)	ACTFL OPI (or OPIc) ACTFL WPT (or WPTc)	Advanced Low Advanced Low
Russian 7-12 (#022)	ACTFL OPI (or OPIc) ACTFL WPT (or WPTc)	Intermediate High Intermediate High
Mandarin Chinese (#024)	ACTFL OPI (or OPIc) ACTFL WPT (or WPTc)	Intermediate High Intermediate High
Other World Languages (#024)	ACTFL OPI (or OPIc) ACTFL WPT (or WPTc)	Intermediate High Intermediate High

### Transition Policy

In accordance with the transition policy for regenerated tests, Connecticut will continue, until August 31, 2020, to accept a score of intermediate high on all ACTFL tests taken prior to September 1, 2015. This policy will allow transition time for those candidates who have previously passed these tests to use results for purposes of certification eligibility. On or after August 31, 2020, all applicants must meet the new higher standards, even if they met the lower passing standard prior to September 1, 2015.

Any educator who applies for certification but did not achieve passing scores of Intermediate-High on the ACTFL OPI and/or WPT for French, German, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese by September 1, 2015, will be required to meet the new passing standard of Advanced-Low for these languages, on whichever exams they have not passed prior to September 1, 2015.

