

AP Program Endorsement of NEWL Assessments

The College Board believes that knowledge of a second language is increasingly essential for life in the United States, as well as for success in the diverse and globally interconnected economies of the 21st century. Today, more than 21% of all Americans speak a language other than English at home – by 2030, that number is expected to rise to 40%. Earlier this year, the American Academy Commission’s Report on Languages in America found that “the US lags behind most nations in the world in the percentage of its citizens with some knowledge of a second language.”

In addition to AP’s courses in Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish, the AP Program strongly endorses the American Councils for International Education’s NEWL[®] (National Examinations in World Languages) program for languages we do not offer and do not plan to offer.

The College Board recommends to all our member institutions that they accept NEWL exam scores for credit and/or placement in languages for their students, as they would accept a comparable score on an AP exam. We heartily support American Councils as they expand their NEWL offerings and provide more valuable opportunities for heritage speakers and language learners to earn recognition for their language studies.

Sincerely,



Trevor Packer

Senior Vice President, Advanced Placement and Instruction

The College Board