



kentucky world language association

# World Language Showcase & Gala Event

## Frequently Asked Questions

**If students want to participate in either live events or prepared events, does that mean that they must also do the three core events?**

Yes! With the new proficiency-based model, all students must be willing to demonstrate their abilities in a controlled assessment to be eligible for live events or prepared events.

**What if I have a group of students who receive a “distinguished” rating during the prepared events, but one or more students in the group do not achieve a novice high rating on their proficiency assessments?**

Only students who achieve novice high or above on their proficiency assessments will be able to attend the state event. The remaining student(s) in the group who meet(s) the requirement will be allowed to present the material at the state showcase.

**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.

**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.

**I have legitimate conflicts for both January 21 and February 18.**

**Can I still send students to the showcase?**

We sincerely hope that all teachers will be able to attend one of the two sessions currently offered. If you have conflicts with both dates, please contact the appropriate regional director as soon as possible and notify him/her of your situation. Contact information for the regional directors can be found in the Rules & Guidelines document online.

**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 up to the cutting edge of 21st century World Language pedagogy.

**The Festival was so much fun, and my students really enjoyed it.**

**Why have you taken away all the neat cultural events my students (and I) loved?**

The new format is not intended to take away the fun cultural events we all know and love. Students can still recite poetry, make costumes, create art, perform drama, sing songs, and so on. The difference is that they will also be expected to present the cultural material in the target language, or in the case of Latin, using the target language when appropriate. These are now considered “prepared performance events - personal interest”.

**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](mailto:andrew.gollan@fayette.kyschools.us).

**How do we prepare for the language bowl?**

For World Language students, the language bowl format is nearly identical to the Quick Recall format used by all middle and high school academic teams in the state of Kentucky. While a lengthy rule book is posted online, we encourage you to contact your school’s academic team coach to see if you and your students can observe a practice or attend a match. For Latin students, the format is Certamen. For more information, see the National Junior Classical League web site.

**What do we need to provide for the language bowl?**

All schools must provide their own buzzer system(s) as well as a (1) moderator, (2) timekeeper, and (3) scorekeeper. Not all moderators, timekeepers, and scorekeepers will be used. We strongly recommend that moderators, timekeepers, and scorekeepers be students or teachers already familiar with Quick Recall format whenever possible. Make sure all equipment is clearly labeled with your school district as you will not necessarily use your own buzzer system.

**What if our region isn’t providing a language bowl, and we still want to participate?**

First, contact your regional director, and express interest. If there is enough interest, there is always the possibility that the regional director will consider adding one. If there is not enough interest in your region, contact the Executive Director of the State Showcase ([showcase@kwla-online.org](mailto:showcase@kwla-online.org)). If there is enough interest, we will consider play-in rounds.

**Have more questions? Please contact Executive Director of the KWLA Showcase, Tamara Bentley-Caudill at [showcase@kwla-online.org](mailto:showcase@kwla-online.org).**