

*National Council of State Supervisors for Languages  
NCSSFL*



<http://ncssfl.org>

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February 24, 2009

Paula Compton, Ph.D.  
Ohio Board of Regents  
30 E. Broad Street, Floor 36  
Columbus, OH 43215-3414

Dear Dr. Compton,

As President of the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages, I support the Ohio Board of Regents' AP policy for World Language and Literature exams. A score of 3 should enable a student to earn **at least** the credit for the beginning sequence of language instruction and placement into the intermediate level. Scores of 4 or 5 should yield credit for the beginning sequence and higher placement into the intermediate language sequence.

Marcia Wilbur of the College Board spoke at our annual NCSSFL business meeting in November. She stated that AP World Language and Literature exams target intermediate-level language proficiency. Consequently, your policy maintaining that students who earn a 3 or better should be placed into **at least** the first intermediate-level course is a step in the right direction. If a student earns at least a 3 on both the Language and Literature AP exams, credit for the beginning sequence and higher placement into the intermediate sequence should result.

This practice will ensure that students receive consistent **credit** across Ohio IHEs for successful results on AP Language and Literature exams. To ensure correct **placement**, I recommend that language department faculty advisors work with individual students to match attained level of proficiency with the correct course in the intermediate sequence.

Your detailed guidance on each language and literature exam concerning credit and placement are in keeping with national directions on this issue. Yet, Ohio's AP Language and Literature exam policy falls a bit short of College Board's own recommendations. Therefore, I also recommend that data on this credit and placement policy be collected over the next few years. Evidence will show whether these present policy recommendations confer enough credit and place students appropriately into the intermediate language sequence.

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As you are well aware, the purpose of AP is to afford learners the opportunity to earn college credit, thus saving both parent and taxpayer money and to allow learners to build advanced knowledge and skills once in college. The Ohio Board of Regents' AP policy recommendations represent a positive step to meet these goals.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah W. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and "R".

Deborah W. Robinson, Ph.D.  
NCSSFL President  
World Languages Consultant, ODE

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