



# Anchorage School District

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## World Languages

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January 13, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the spring semester we will be administering the STAMP assessment to our world language and immersion students in grades 2-12. STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency), a product of Avant Assessment, will for the first time ever, provide district-wide data on how well our students are progressing in their study of a second language. Last spring we rolled out this assessment in 7 pilot schools, and this spring we will be rolling it out to all schools, with a few exceptions. **The STAMP testing window will be February 22-April 1 (Rilke Schule students will test between April 4-May 2).**

STAMP is a web-based adaptive assessment that is used to determine levels of Novice to Advanced at any point along the learning path, based upon the national ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) proficiency levels. STAMP is unique in that it is a nationally-normed assessment that measures the four skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking that uses real-world questions, scenarios, or prompts that engage students to actively determine their individual proficiency levels in each of the skills. STAMP assesses how well students understand, and are able to use the language.

*STAMP is a tool used to determine proficiency*, not just another standardized test. Students could potentially use their results to help with their placement and/or credit at the college or university level. Results could also be shared with potential employers as proficiency levels are based on national standards.

Elementary immersion students in grades 2-6 will take the STAMP 4Se, designed specifically for elementary students. Students in grade 2 will only take the speaking and listening portions while students in grades 3-6 will take speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Secondary immersion and non-immersion students in grades 7-12 will take the STAMP 4S, which is designed for older students, and also measures the four skills. Note: STAMP does not exist for ASL, Latin, or Russian at the secondary level.

On the backside of this letter is a STAMP Parent Guide provided by Avant. You can also learn more about STAMP and even take a practice test on their website at [www.avantassessment.com](http://www.avantassessment.com). If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brandon Locke  
Director, World Languages  
[Locke\\_Brandon@asdk12.org](mailto:Locke_Brandon@asdk12.org)

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*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

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# Avant STAMP4S Test Taker/Parent Guide



## Overview

- Avant STAMP 4S is a nationally recognized web-based test that assesses language proficiency
- The test is available in Arabic, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, French, Japanese and Spanish
- Test results inform test takers and educators about learning progress and program effectiveness
- The test has four sections – reading, writing, listening and speaking
- Reading and Listening items are computer-scored and computer-adaptive (meaning that questions are selected based on previous responses, becoming easier or more difficult as needed to determine proficiency level)
- Writing and Speaking items are scored by Avant's trained raters who use a Scoring Rubric that lists the criteria for meeting Benchmark Levels
- Demonstrated ability on Reading and Writing sections facilitates the types of Speaking and Writing prompts the test taker will receive
- The test was developed by the Center for Applied Second Language Studies (CASLS) at the University of Oregon and was adapted and delivered by Avant Assessment
- Tests are taken in a proctored environment with no outside resources allowed

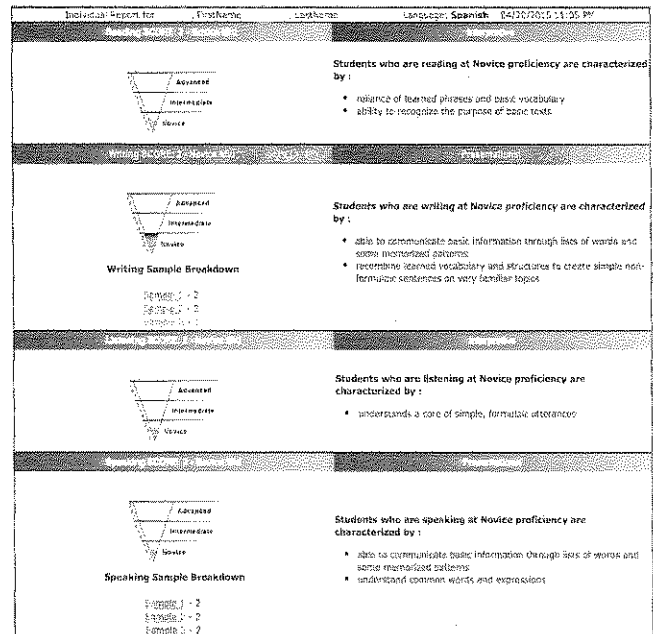
## Individual Report

The Individual Report is divided into four sections – one for each skill tested. Each section displays the score (benchmark level) that the test taker attained.

Below the heading is an inverted pyramid that displays the score in a graphic format. The yellow-filled area depicts the level attained. For the Writing and Speaking phases of the test, an additional blue-filled area will appear if the test taker had one test item that scored at a higher level. This serves as an alert that the test taker may be operating across a range of proficiency levels with this skill.

The area to the right of the inverted pyramid describes the characteristics associated with the skill (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking) and level category (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced). If a test section was not completed, this area of the report will show the test taker status for this section (Not Started or Started).

The Writing and Speaking sections of the report also show the individual scores for each of the three responses (Sample 1, Sample 2, Sample 3). A response marked "Not Ratable" may be due to: 1) No response submitted, 2) Non-target language, 3) Off-topic, or 4) Inappropriate (violent, profane, etc.).



## Understanding the Scores

To understand more about the Individual Report scores, see the Benchmarks and Rubrics Guide. The rubric outlines in detail what expectations are placed upon the test takers for performance at any given level. For more information about a specific test taker's scores, contact the organization that administered the test.

Updated October 2015

## Need Help?

**Students:** Contact your assessment Administrator or Proctor

**Administrators:** Email: [support@avantassessment.com](mailto:support@avantassessment.com)  
Phone: Within the U.S.: 1 866-713-7867  
Outside the U.S.: + 541-338-9090

After hours, please leave a voicemail message.

**Avant Assessment, LLC**  
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Eugene, Oregon 97401

**Support Representatives** are available Monday – Friday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time (March-June), and from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time during the rest of the year