

# Forest Hills Public Schools

## ACTFL

# Proficiency Testing

# Introduction

*Spanish Immersion*  
*FHPS in Partnership with Language Testing International (LTI)*

# Why LTI?

- Language Testing International, Inc. (LTI) administers all American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) assessments.
- LTI prides itself on a commitment to offering language assessments supported by paramount customer service and web-based technology to deliver the most valid, reliable results available, in an efficient manner.
- LTI has partnered with Forest Hills Public Schools to ensure a positive testing experience for our students.

# Why the Partnership?

- Spanish Immersion students and families have indicated strong interest in obtaining official language proficiency ratings to be placed on the high school transcript.
- By partnering with LTI, Forest Hills Public Schools positions itself as an official “testing site,” which will allow the district to access student proficiency ratings in a timely manner.
- FHPS will have constant access to any changes/updates to the testing process for the test offered to our students and will have consistent access to LTI customer service.

# Why take the ACTFL OPI Assessment?

- The Assessment offered through the partnership is not mandatory; it is an option for students who wish to demonstrate a nationally recognized test score on their record that many colleges provide credit and advanced placement for.
- ACTFL Assessments are recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT).

[ACE Credit Recommendations for ACTFL Ratings](#)

[ACE Credit College and University Network](#)

# Is college credit automatically awarded?

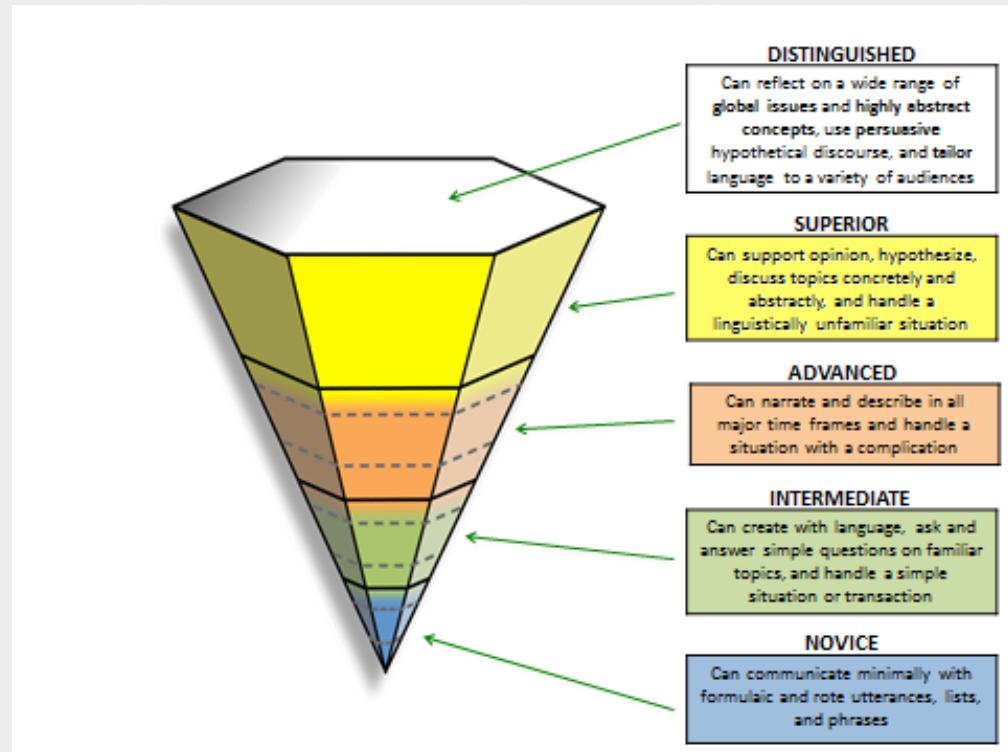
- Each college/university makes its determination regarding college credit. Note that the allocation of credits from the college/university your student elects to attend is NOT controlled by FHPs, LTI, or ACTFL.
- The allocation of credit is based solely on the policies/practices of the university/college. Please do not contact FHPs, LTI, or ACTFL with questions pertaining to college credit. Contact the university/college language department directly.
- For further information on the College Credit Recommendations for ACTFL Assessments, please see the ACTFL Assessments for College Credit Recommendations Brochure.

# Ratings on the ACTFL OPI Assessment

- Language proficiency ratings range from the Novice level to the Distinguished level on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.
- The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines describe what language learners can do with their language skills in real-world situations and non-rehearsed contexts.
- There are five levels of proficiency:
  - Distinguished
  - Superior
  - Advanced
  - Intermediate
  - Novice

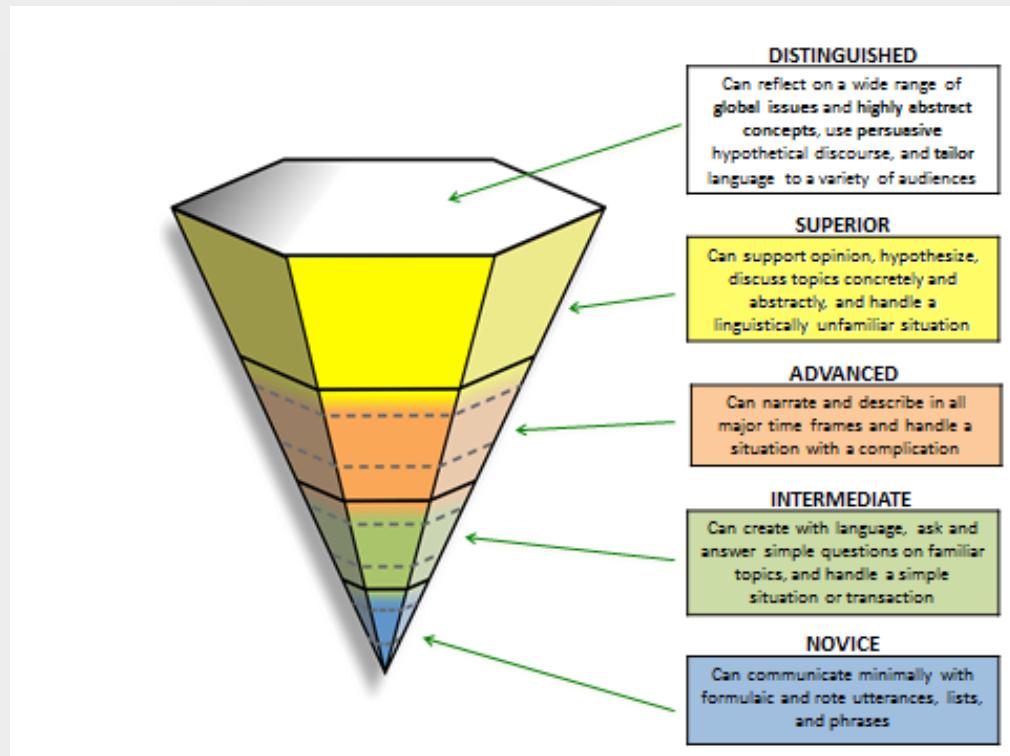
# ACTFL Proficiency Scale

- The major levels Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice are further subdivided into High, Mid, and Low.
- Upon completion of the speaking test offered, Spanish Immersion students will be rated according to those sublevels.



# ACTFL Proficiency Scale

- Note that it is EXTREMELY uncommon for an individual who has not spent extensive time abroad and studying at the university level to achieve a Superior or Distinguished proficiency rating.
- Abilities within the Superior and Distinguished ranges require extensive cognitive development beyond the adolescent years.



# What the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines ARE:

- Levels of proficiency in terms of ranges that articulate what a language learner can do with the language at each level.
- A way to articulate “what the learner cannot do at the next higher level, regardless of where, when, or how the language was acquired.”
- A hierarchy, meaning that if a student’s range is in the Intermediate Mid, s/he is able to accomplish all linguistic tasks within that range and below it on the scale.

# What the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines are NOT:

- Based on any particular theory, pedagogical method, or curriculum.
- Descriptions of how a learner acquires a language.
- Prescriptions regarding how a learner should learn a language.

The Guidelines are solely “an instrument for the evaluation of functional language ability.”

# District Recommended Test Available to Obtain a Certified ACTFL Proficiency Rating:

- ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (ACTFL OPI)
  - Phone interview taken at NHS (registration available through <http://www.enjoylearning.com/>).
  - **Registration is open beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, June 13, 2016, and ends Thursday, July 14, 2016. Please see Slide 15 for complete information.**

# General Information

**OPI – Cost \$200 for District Residents  
(\$139 official cost of OPI + \$61 FHPS proctoring fee)**

- Conducted via phone interview at Northern High School.
- Proctored by a FHPS employee.
- Administered by a certified ACTFL tester.
- Blindly double rated by two certified ACTFL raters.
- Final rating is assigned.

# Additional Testing Information

- Some have inquired about the possibility of retaking the assessments.
  - This is ultimately up to each individual student/family, as each student/family is responsible for the testing fee each time the test is taken.
  - Keep in mind the research on the assessment: Because the test is double-blind rated, the level of reliability is extremely high. Retaking the test is not likely to reflect a change in rating/score. For this reason, ACTFL **REQUIRES** a 90-day waiting period before retesting is allowed.
  - If a student decides to retake after the 90-day period, it is his/her responsibility to check with the FHPS Instruction Office at (616) 493-8806 to make sure their highest rating is reflected on the transcript.

# OPI and the High School Transcript

- All OPI scores will automatically be placed on a student's transcript.
- If you do not want your score on the transcript, you must contact the FHPS Instruction Office at (616) 493-8806.
- **Students have access to their transcripts. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that the highest rating is reflected on the transcript by contacting the FHPS Instruction Office.**

# Testing Registration Information for the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview – Cost \$200

- Registration for scheduling the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview opens Monday, June 13, 2016, and ends Thursday, July 14, 2016.
- Testing begins Monday, June 27, 2016.
- The last day to take the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview is Thursday, July 28, 2016.
- Tests registered for and not completed by Thursday, July 28, 2016, will be forfeited.
- All tests will take place at Forest Hills Northern High School, 3801 Leonard NE, Grand Rapids.
- Formal cancellations are accepted up to 24 hours prior to the test time by contacting Forest Hills Northern High School at (616) 493-8600.
- There will be a \$65 fee assessed for appointments canceled less than 24 hours in advance and missed appointments, no exceptions.

(instructions continued on the next slide)

# Testing Registration Information for the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview – (cont'd)

- Go to the FHPS Community Education Website: <http://www.enjoylearning.com/>.
- BEFORE REGISTERING FOR THE TEST: There is an orange square on the home page that states “Registering Your Child for Classes.” It is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that students/families read this prior to registering for the assessment.
- CREAT AN ACCOUNT. Enter **student** name (NOT parent name).
- Each STUDENT must have his/her own, separate account and separate email address listed. Students can create an account by clicking on the student login at the top right of the page.
- Once an account has been generated through the steps listed above, students must find the “class.”
- Click on “Youth Enrichment.”
- Click on Spanish ACTFL OPI Testing, and then Enroll. Upon completion of this step, please allow time for FHPS to schedule a testing time/date for you. You will be notified as soon as your date/time have been arranged.

# Questions?

<b>Questions regarding...</b>	<b>Contact...</b>
OPI testing	FHPS Instruction Office @ (616) 493-8806
Retaking the OPI	90-day wait period
Request removal of score on high school transcript	Student responsibility to contact the FHPS Instruction Office
Making sure that highest rating is placed on transcript if more than one test is taken	Student responsibility to contact the FHPS Instruction Office
College Credit for OPI/OPIc Ratings	Student's respective college/university
Issues with OPI Registration	Community Education @ (616) 493-8950 or via email <a href="mailto:community-enrichment@fhps.net">community-enrichment@fhps.net</a>

# Sources Consulted

- ACE Brochure, ACTFL 2012.
- ACTFL OPIc Fact Sheet: Language Testing International (LTI), [languagetesting.com](http://languagetesting.com)
- ACTFL OPIc Familiarization Manual. White Plains, NY: 2012.
- ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Fact Sheet: Language Testing International (LTI), [languagetesting.com](http://languagetesting.com)
- ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview Familiarization Manual. White Plains, NY: 2012.
- ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines, 2012.