August 14, 2026

Dr. Antoinette Mitchell
State Superintendent of Education
Office of the State Superintendent of Education
1050 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Superintendent Mitchell,

Thank you for your continued partnership in modernizing high school graduation requirements. At the working session on August 5th, we began discussing competency-based credit for world languages. Below is revised proposed language that we believe addresses concerns expressed by State Board representatives. **We respectfully request that OSSE update its original letter to President Patterson, submitted on July 31st, with the proposed updates to high school graduation requirements and the language below.**

> *"As described in the proposed policy regarding a new DC State Seal of Biliteracy, OSSE is in support of offering DC students a competency-based method to demonstrate language proficiency for languages learned outside their schools. Recognition of competency-based credit for world language will create new opportunities for students' linguistic abilities to be recognized and recorded on their report cards and will help expand access for students to languages (especially less commonly taught languages) not available in their schools. OSSE supports granting LEAs the option to award competency-based credits at their discretion for language learning outside school, based upon an exam or assessment that covers the four language domains: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. OSSE proposes that at the discretion of the LEA, students may earn up to two world language credits, and not less than two, for languages learned outside their schools, based on their scores on an assessment approved by OSSE (same assessments as approved for the Seal of Biliteracy). Furthermore, at the discretion of the LEA, students may be permitted to use these competency-based credits to fulfill their world language requirement for graduation. Under this policy, LEAs will not need to seek a special waiver from OSSE to offer these credits."*

The Board asks that you share the revised letter no later than Wednesday, August 19, 2026. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The D.C. State Board of Education