International
CHARTER SCHOOL
OF ATLANTA

Parent Letter: Advant Stamp4Se testing

Dear Parents,

The Advant Standards-Based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP 4Se) is used to measure how students are developing their target language proficiency. Results from these tests will give us detailed information on how students are developing in each of the four skills in their target language (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Avant STAMP 4Se is web-based and computer-adaptive. This means that the testing engine automatically adapts to each student's level (up or down) as the assessment progresses. The STAMP 4Se provides real-world questions on topics selected, through research, to be level-appropriate. These questions engage learners, and, because STAMP 4Se is adaptive, students are able to demonstrate their personal proficiency level without any pre-set upper limits.

This year, **second grade** will participate. The testing dates *March 23 – April 3, 2020*. Though this is our testing window, it does not mean that students will be tested every day of the testing period. Most students will complete the test in a few days. Students will take the reading and listening assessment one day and take another day for the speaking and another day for the writing assessment. Read more in the FAQ page on the back.

We will share the language proficiency reports with parents. We are hoping to share reports by the end of May to be included in the report card envelopes.

Our teachers will review the assessment's components and the online practice test at school with your child. Please, however, familiarize yourself with the test format, talk to your child about the assessment, and let him or her practice the test format at home. Below, we have shared some helpful and informative resources.

Parent Resources/Information:

Sample Test:
https://avantassessment.com/sample-tests#4Se_Sample

Test Taker's Guide
https://avantassessment.com/stamp4se/test-taker-guide

Benchmark and Rubric Guide
https://avantassessment.com/stamp4se/benchmarks-rubric-guide

Reporting Guide
https://cymbals-hyperboloid-n6p3.squarespace.com/stamp4se/reporting-guide

Kind regards,

Barbara Wiren
Upper Campus Director
Assessment Coordinator
International Charter School of Atlanta

Frequently asked questions

(taken from https://avantassessment.com/stamp4se/frequently-asked-questions)

How long does it take to complete Avant STAMP 4Se?

On average, it takes approximately 1 hour, 20 minutes to complete Avant STAMP 4Se. Avant STAMP 4Se is not timed, and students may pause and resume the assessment at any point. Estimated Avant STAMP 4Se completion times by domain:

Reading: 25-35 minutes
Writing: 10 minutes
Listening: 25-30 minutes
Speaking: 10 minutes

How many questions will Test Takers encounter on Avant STAMP 4Se?

Reading: approximately 24 multiple choice questions
Writing: 2 prompts
Listening: approximately 24 multiple choice questions
Speaking: 2 prompts

What is computer-adaptive testing?

Avant STAMP4Se is computer-adaptive, meaning that the level of question difficulty that a student is presented with is based on the number of correct answers they have logged so far in the assessment. The testing engine automatically adapts to each student's level-up or down-as the test progresses. This approach was pioneered at Avant Assessment, the first company to develop commercial-grade, multi-stage, computer-adaptive tests for language learning, beginning in 2001.

What is Avant STAMP 4Se?

Avant STAMP (STAndards-based Measurement of Proficiency) 4Se determines language proficiency in 4 domains (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) for grades 2-6. Avant STAMP 4Se is web-based and computer-adaptive, with real-world questions on topics selected to be level-appropriate based on research into topics taught at each level. The questions engage learners, and because STAMP 4Se is adaptive, students are able to demonstrate their own actual proficiency level without any pre-set upper limits. Avant STAMP 4Se was originally developed as the NOELLA test by a consortium of six state Foreign Language Supervisors, the Center for Applied Linguistics, and the Center for Applied Second Language Studies at the University of Oregon and funded by the US Department of Education. Avant STAMP 4Se has been validated by field testing and expert panels. It is a secure test that requires a proctor during administration.

Who uses Avant STAMP 4Se?

Avant STAMP 4Se helps elementary educators monitor progress and evaluate programs, empowering informed decision-making around staff development and instructional planning. This web-based and computer-adaptive test is used by both Immersion and FLES programs across the nation to engage students while determining their foreign language proficiency and generating meaningful data that indicates how they would perform in the real world.

What grade levels are appropriate for Avant STAMP 4Se?

Avant STAMP 4Se is targeted for learners in grades 2 through 6.