Question:

We are curious to know what other schools do for this situation:

Student is a native Spanish speaker and wants to take Spanish in high school

Do schools allow them to start in Spanish II because they are native speaking?

Do schools have them start in Spanish I because they may not speak it properly?

If the school allows them to jump to Spanish II, do you offer Spanish IV for honors requirements being met?

Responses:

We typically start them in Spanish 1 because they often can't write or understand written Spanish.  Our Spanish teacher  is a native Spanish person so I usually rely on her expertise.

We have native Spanish speakers take the first and second semester final for Spanish I and if they pass with a C or higher they get the credits and start in Spanish II freshman year. A lot of our native speakers don’t read or write Spanish so this shows us if they can (I believe the Spanish teacher might exempt them from the geography portion of the final).

We have them start at Spanish I. Ours have  known how to speak it but not grammar or writing.

We have not had this situation but we have native English speakers take English every day, why not let a Spanish speaker take Spanish?  Maybe the student wants to learn formal Spanish.

Hello,

If you have students who already speak Spanish, but would like to improve their language and get the Academic Honors Diploma, you can give them the Spanish II final. If they pass it, give them credit for Spanish I and II, and then you can place them in level III. There is also the Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency at this[link](http://www.doe.in.gov/ccr/certificate-multilingual-proficiency), but if they are wanting further instruction in Spanish, this may not be a good option. Let me know if you have any other questions!

**Nicole Leach**

*Global Learning & World Language Specialist*

**Indiana Department of Education**

(317) 232-0572 | nleach@doe.in.gov

[www.doe.in.gov](http://www.doe.in.gov/)  | Feedback: [How are we doing?](https://form.jotformpro.com/70474387441965)

They take Spanish 1, regardless.

Our school has approximately 50% Hispanic students who are native Spanish speakers. We find that, although they speak Spanish, they have trouble with the grammatical details and cannot write in Spanish “properly”.  Additionally, the Spanish I curriculum is based off “Spain Spanish”, whereas our students have learned their own dialect from Mexico which has variations. Also, the curriculum covers cultural questions about Spain, which many of the students do not know. Therefore, we give them the option to test out of Spanish I. They are given the final exam for Spanish I which is comprised of a writing, speaking and reading section. They must master the final exam with an 80% or higher in order to be awarded credit for the class and be placed in the Spanish II classroom. Their grade on the final exam is entered on their transcript as their grade for the course. Our data shows that approximately 20% of the students who attempt to test out are successful.

Look up Certificate of multilingual proficiency.  This allows students to be awarded HS credit based on their level of ability.  They can be awarded up to 6 hs credits.  We offer dual credit for our Spanish courses, but they have to take Spanish III to get dual credit for III & IV.  They can only test out of I & II if they want the college credit.

We allow our native speakers to test out of level 1 by taking the Spanish 1 final that is given by our department head. Students can test out of one level only and can start in Spanish 2. If they feel they can test out of two years then we suggest another world language. We do offer Spanish 4 to those students.