



AATSP
¡TODOS A UNA! • TODOS POR UMI!

**National Spanish
Examinations**



The National Spanish & Portuguese Exams are motivational contests that recognize educational achievements in the studies of Spanish & Portuguese.

National Spanish Exam (NSE) ♦ National Portuguese Exam (NPE)

National Spanish Challenge (NSC) ♦ National Spanish Assessments (NSA)

These exams are online, standardized assessment tools given to elementary–high school students throughout the United States to measure performance (interpretive communication) and achievement of students who are studying Spanish or Portuguese as a second language.

Our Purpose

- ★ To recognize academic achievements
- ★ To promote proficiency in interpretive communication
- ★ To assess individual students in comparison to the national standards
- ★ To stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of Spanish & Portuguese

Many *teachers* state that they use our National Examinations to *prepare students to take other standardized tests* such as AP, IB, SAT II and college placement exams.

Many *administrators* state that they can use data from our National Examinations to create reports to show how their schools have improved over an academic year.

The exams evaluate both content *and* performance standards through *authentic texts*.

1. **Content Standards** (Vocabulary & Grammar)
 - a. What a student should **know** in a content area at a particular level
2. **Performance Standards** (Reading & Listening)
 - a. What a student should **be able to do** at a particular proficiency level

| Achievement | Proficiency |
|-----------------------|--|
| Vocabulary Grammar | Reading Comprehension Listening Comprehension |

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Levels - Students must be registered for the National Examination in the level which corresponds to the same course for which the student is receiving credit.

Categories- Students with like-exposure compete with each other by registering in one of three categories:

1. **Classroom Experience** - a student whose only contact with Spanish/Portuguese is in the classroom.
2. **Outside Experience** - a student who has had specific experiences with Spanish/Portuguese beyond the classroom.
3. **Bilingual** - a student who comes from a home where Spanish/Portuguese is the predominant language

The National Spanish & Portuguese Exams are scored using *National Percentiles*.

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Gold 99 – 95 | Silver 94 – 85 | Bronze 84 – 75 | Honorable Mention 74 – 50 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

NSC - The **National Spanish Challenge** (1st-6th grade competition) has its own [specifications](#) and content (see [examples](#)). There are *five* Divisions of Competition available and participants that score a specified amount of points will earn corresponding Ribbons. Certificates and scholarship opportunities are also available for the NSC challengers!

NSA - Some teachers opt to give students the **National Spanish Assessments (NSA)** since they can use it as a tool for measuring where students are at one point in the year and where they end up at a second testing. This option is *not a contest*.

Cost - There are only *two costs* associated with the exam.

(1) **Cost per Teacher:** There is a \$75 cost to each teacher administering any of the exams offered by the NSE. *However*, AATSP members **do not have to pay** the \$75 per teacher cost, as giving our Exams is a [benefit](#) of AATSP membership.

(2) **Cost per Student:** Each Exam costs a national fee of \$5 during regular registration.

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