



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. Examples:

The student's principal language is a romance language (Spanish, Catalan, French, Galician, Italian, Sicilian, Portuguese, Rumanian, etc.)	The student is a heritage speaker who has had exposure to Spanish/Portuguese but limited practice in their home environment. The student may hear or speak some Spanish/Portuguese at home.
The student has been enrolled in a Spanish/Portuguese immersion or dual language program for the prior 3 years or more.	The student has participated in an elementary Spanish/Portuguese language program during grades K-6 for three years or more. (This specification applies to LEVELS 01 and 1 only . Any student taking the Level 2 exam or above who participated in an elementary Spanish/Portuguese program may be placed in the CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE category.)

Note: For the purposes of the NSE & NPE Contests, an elementary Spanish/Portuguese language program is defined as having had 30 minutes or more of language instruction per week for three years or more during Grades K-6.

3. BILINGUAL

A student who comes from a home where Spanish/Portuguese is the predominant language. Examples:

The student has grown up in a home where Spanish/Portuguese is spoken.	The student is bilingual to some degree in both Spanish/Portuguese and English.
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TEACHER DISCRETION!

The following language experiences may place a student in either the *outside experience category* or in the *bilingual category*. The teacher should advise the student as to which category is appropriate:

A student has lived (after age 6) in a Spanish/Portuguese speaking country for more than a year.	A student has studied in a Spanish/Portuguese speaking country for more than 4 months.
A student whose principal language at home is Spanish, Portuguese, or a mixture of Spanish/Portuguese and English.	A student whose principal language outside the home is Spanish, Portuguese, or a mixture of Spanish/Portuguese and English.

Note: The National Spanish/Portuguese Exams are used to measure performance (interpretive communication) and achievement of students who are studying the Spanish/Portuguese language in the United States.

NATIVE SPEAKERS

Native Spanish-or-Portuguese-speakers should compete in the Bilingual Category only. The teacher may need to evaluate the appropriate *Competition Level* of the NSE/NPE for these students to maintain the integrity of these National Exams.

Foreign exchange students.	Students who were <i>born</i> in and who have studied the Spanish/Portuguese language formally in a native classroom environment and later moved to the United States.
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