



District 155 Seal of Biliteracy

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award earned by students who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in one or more languages, in addition to English, during their high school career. The Seal of Biliteracy was approved by the Illinois State Board of Education with the intention of promoting cultural literacy and bilingualism to meet the demand of employers needing bilingual employees. Students that earn the Seal of Biliteracy will have the official seal appended to their high school diploma and transcript.

What is the State Commendation toward Biliteracy?

The State Commendation toward Biliteracy is a recognition earned by students who have demonstrated significant progress toward achieving a high level of proficiency in one or more languages, in addition to English.

How can biliteracy help students?

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment for bilingual jobs is projected to grow 29 percent by 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth will be driven by increasing globalization and by large increases in the number of non-English-speaking people in the United States. Furthermore, students that develop their knowledge of other cultures will be better equipped to navigate an increasingly multicultural world after high school.

How can students earn the Seal of Biliteracy?

In order to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must demonstrate proficiency in English and one or more additional languages as determined by the following assessments:

Seal of Biliteracy English Proficiency Assessment Options (Student must meet one of the following)	Seal of Biliteracy Second Language Proficiency Assessment Options (Student must meet one of the following)	State Commendation toward Biliteracy Second Language Assessment Options (Student must meet one of the following)
ACT composite of 21 or above or ACT English subject area test of 18 or above	AP World Language exam score of 4 or 5	AP World Language exam score of 3
SAT: Meet the State standard in English Language Arts (exact score TBD)	ACTFL score of <i>Intermediate High</i> (I-5) or above on the AAPPL test	ACTFL score of <i>Intermediate Low</i> (I-1) to <i>Intermediate Mid</i> (I-4) on the AAPPL test
For English Learners: Seal: ACCESS composite score of 5.0 with at least a 4.2 reading & 4.2 writing Commendation: 3.5 literacy		

Criteria for English Language Proficiency: An ACT composite score of 21 or higher or an ACT English subtest score of 18 or higher. An SAT composite score that meets the State standards in English Language Arts (exact score TBD). If a student is designated as an English Learner, they can demonstrate the English language proficiency requirement by meeting the state ACCESS guideline of a 5 with at least a 4.2 reading score and a 4.2 writing score.

*If a student scores a 3.5 in literacy on the ACCESS test, they are eligible for the Commendation.

Criteria for World Language Proficiency: Eligible students have the opportunity to take the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages, or AAPPL, in the spring at a date and time chosen by their high schools to test their proficiency in one of the seven languages tested by the AAPPL: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Portuguese, Russian, or Spanish. Students must receive a score of Intermediate High (I-5) or higher to be awarded the State Seal of Biliteracy. As an alternative option, high school seniors who have already scored a 4 or 5 on an AP World Language exam administered by The College Board prior to the applicant's senior year of high school may choose to opt out of the AAPPL language assessment and will be considered proficient in that World Language for the State Seal of Biliteracy. Currently, AP World Language exams are available in Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish.

*If a student earns a score of 3 on their AP World Language exam or a score of Intermediate Low (I-1) to Intermediate Mid (I-4) on their AAPPL language assessment, they will be recognized with the Commendation Toward Biliteracy.

Who should I contact with questions?

For general questions about the program, please contact Neil Lesinski at nlesinski@d155.org

For building-specific questions about the Seal of Biliteracy program, please contact the International Studies division leader at your home school:

Cary-Grove: Greg Hoffman: ghoffman@d155.org

Crystal Lake Central: Steven Knope: sknope@d155.org

Crystal Lake South: Jeff Delzell: jdelzell@d155.org

Prairie Ridge: John Pellikan: jpellikan@d155.org