

The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy



Background

The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy is an award presented at graduation in recognition of attaining a high-level of proficiency in English and in one or more other languages. It is officially designated on a student's transcript and high school diploma.

This award is intended to include students who speak a language other than English at home as well as those who are completing a course of study in a world language through high school. Being bilingual is an asset for everyone.

Being bilingual is a valuable skill in today's global society. Language curriculums that guide students toward the Seal of Biliteracy encourage students to use their language skills rather than just learn about a language. The Seal gives students something tangible to strive for as they work to learn new languages and/or maintain their home language during their studies. You can encourage and incentivize your students' language studies by establishing and promoting a program like the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy. The most important thing you can do is establish a culture in your school that recognizes and values diverse languages and cultures.

In Illinois, the seal also translates into Foreign Language course credit at public colleges and universities.



Illinois accepts a variety of proficiency exams or portfolio options for students to demonstrate proficiency in English and subsequent languages. The approved language exams are listed on our website. Contact biliteracy@isbe.net for assistance.

How do I start a program? What are the yearly expectations and deadlines? How do we physically award the seal at graduation? What support is there for districts, teachers, and students pursuing this honor? **All questions can be answered by visiting our [website](https://www.isbe.net).**



**Illinois
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State Seal of Biliteracy

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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

English Proficiency (choose one)

1. ACCESS for ELLs: 4.8 composite
2. AP English Language and Composition exam: 4
3. ELA Dual Credit course
4. STAMPS 4S: Intermediate High
5. ACT: College ready benchmark (English) or 21 composite
6. AAPPL: I-5 (Intermediate High) (form B)
7. SAT: 480 ELA score
8. TOEFL: 85
9. TOEIC: 550

World Language Proficiency (choose one)

1. AP Language and Culture exam: 4
2. STAMP 4S: Intermediate High
3. AAPPL form B: 1-5 (Intermediate High)
4. ACTFL OPI + LPT + WPT + RPT: Intermediate High
5. ALTA Speaking/Listening + Reading + Writing: 6 (Intermediate High)
6. NEWL: Intermediate High

All ISBE-approved tests require students to achieve [Intermediate High](#) (or equivalent) in **all four** domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

More methods for demonstrating proficiency and other exams that are specific to certain languages can be found on our website and on our list of [approved assessments](#).

More information is available on the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy [webpage](#).



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State Commendation Toward Biliteracy

This is a program to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and in one or more other world languages but do not meet the Intermediate High level required for the seal. The commendation is designated on a student's transcript and high school diploma.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

English Proficiency (choose one)

1. ACCESS for ELLs: 3.5 literacy
2. AP English Language and Composition exam: 3
3. ELA Dual Credit course
4. STAMPS 4S: Intermediate Low
5. ACT: College ready benchmark (English) or 21 composite
6. AAPPL: I-5 (Intermediate Low) (form B)
7. SAT: 480 ELA score
8. TOEFL: Intermediate Low

World Language Proficiency (choose one)

1. AP Language and Culture exam: 3
2. STAMP 4S: Intermediate Low
3. AAPPL form B: I-1 (Intermediate Low)
4. ACTFL OPI + LPT + WPT + RPT: Intermediate High
5. ALTA Speaking /Listening + Reading + Writing: 5 (Intermediate Low)
6. NEWL: Intermediate Low

All ISBE-approved tests require students to achieve [Intermediate Low](#) (or equivalent) in **all four** domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

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Important Dates and Deadlines



August 1 – October 1*

Submit your intent to participate in the program every year by watching the annual training webinar and completing the application in SIS.

During School Year

1. Determine how students will qualify and what supports the district will provide.
2. Consider how to honor recipients. Seal on diploma and note on transcripts are required for compliance.
3. Publicize the Seal on your website and include the program in your student handbook.

Before Graduation Ceremony**

Place the Seal of Biliteracy or the Commendation toward Biliteracy on the diploma and make a note on the transcript of each qualifying student. The district is responsible for printing the designation directly on these documents or on a sticker or stamp to affix to the diploma after printing.

September 15

Final award data due in Student Information System (SIS) in IWAS.

*If submitted after October 1, application must still be at least 45 days before graduation.

**Districts may give award after graduation if results of a test for qualification taken during high school are not available until then.

A detailed guide to yearly implementation can be found on the Administrative Requirements Checklist on our [website](https://www.isbe.net).

[isbe.net](https://www.isbe.net)

September 2022



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