



Dr. Tony Sanders, State Superintendent of Education
Dr. Steven Isoye, Chair of the Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and State Seal of Biliteracy Program Coordinators

FROM: Joanne Clyde, Director of Multilingual / Language Development

DATE: September 2, 2025

SUBJECT: Qualifying ACT Score for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

Per Ill. Admin. Rule 680.20, students can demonstrate English proficiency for the State Seal of Biliteracy via “attainment of college and career benchmarks for English language arts on the State assessments administered at the secondary level.”

At the August Illinois State Board of Education meeting, the new, unified performance levels were approved. The Illinois State Board of Education advises districts participating in the State Seal of Biliteracy that the ACT college readiness benchmark for the ELA portion of the exam has changed to an 18 or higher. An ACT composite score of 18 or higher is also acceptable.

This guidance is effective immediately. If you have any questions, please see the ACT procurement FAQ or go to the Seal of Biliteracy website. You may also email biliteracy@isbe.net.