



Illinois State Board of Education

Navigating the Ethnic Language School Application

August 2022

Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community

Finding the Application



Finding the Application

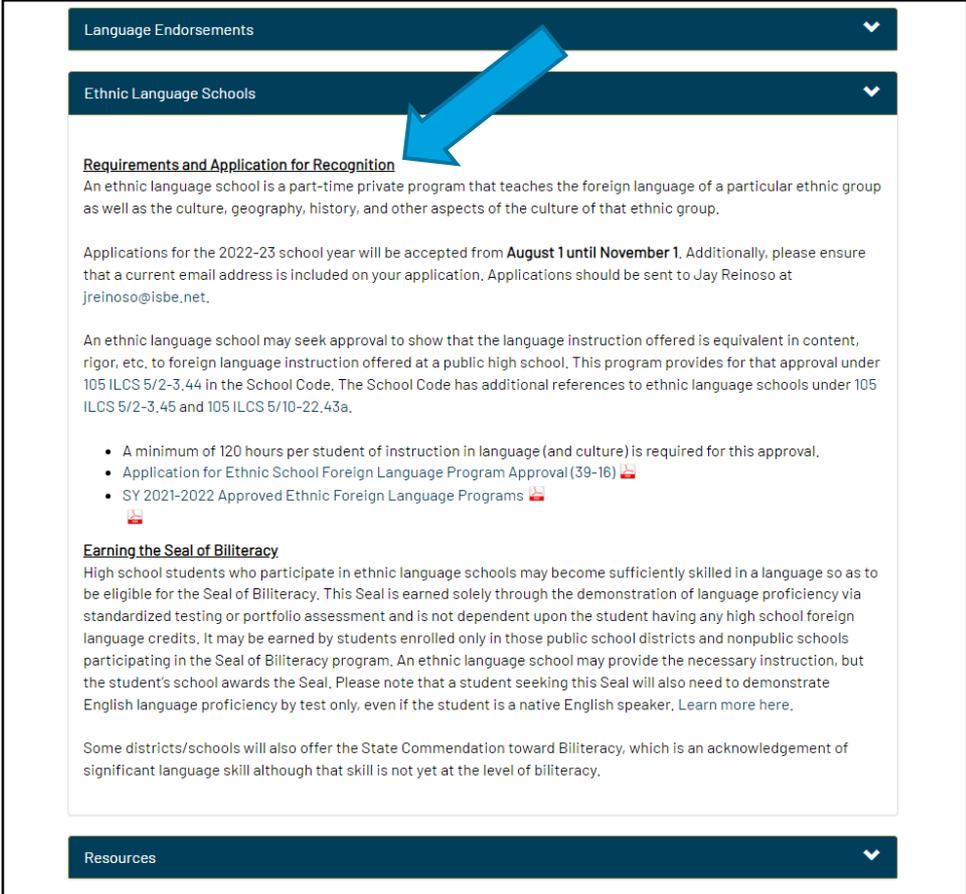
- Follow the link [here](#) to access to the World Languages webpage.



The screenshot displays the Illinois State Board of Education website. At the top, the logo and name "Illinois State Board of Education" are visible, along with navigation links for "Careers at ISBE" and "Contact Us". Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links for "Log Into ELIS", "Log Into IWAS", "Public School District Lookup", "FRIS Inquiry", "IL Report Card", "About the Agency and Board", and "Topics A-Z". The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Multilingual > World Languages". A sidebar on the left contains a "MULTILINGUAL" menu with "World Languages" highlighted. The main heading is "MULTILINGUAL WORLD LANGUAGES". Below this, a paragraph states: "The Illinois Learning Standards for World Languages guide learners to develop competence to communicate effectively and interact with cultural competence to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world. The five 'C' goal areas (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities) stress the application of learning a language beyond the instructional setting. The goal is to prepare learners so they can apply the skills and understandings measured by the standards to their future careers and experiences, which will increasingly occur on a global scale." At the bottom, there are five dropdown menus: "Standards", "Professional Organizations and Development", "Language Endorsements", "Ethnic Language Schools", and "Resources".

Finding the Application

- Click on the blue bar labeled "Ethnic Language Schools" and review the first subsection titled "Requirements and Application for Recognition."



Language Endorsements

Ethnic Language Schools

Requirements and Application for Recognition

An ethnic language school is a part-time private program that teaches the foreign language of a particular ethnic group as well as the culture, geography, history, and other aspects of the culture of that ethnic group.

Applications for the 2022-23 school year will be accepted from **August 1 until November 1**. Additionally, please ensure that a current email address is included on your application. Applications should be sent to Jay Reinoso at jreinoso@isbe.net.

An ethnic language school may seek approval to show that the language instruction offered is equivalent in content, rigor, etc. to foreign language instruction offered at a public high school. This program provides for that approval under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.44 in the School Code. The School Code has additional references to ethnic language schools under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.45 and 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43a.

- A minimum of 120 hours per student of instruction in language (and culture) is required for this approval.
- Application for Ethnic School Foreign Language Program Approval (39-16)
- SY 2021-2022 Approved Ethnic Foreign Language Programs

Earning the Seal of Biliteracy

High school students who participate in ethnic language schools may become sufficiently skilled in a language so as to be eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy. This Seal is earned solely through the demonstration of language proficiency via standardized testing or portfolio assessment and is not dependent upon the student having any high school foreign language credits. It may be earned by students enrolled only in those public school districts and nonpublic schools participating in the Seal of Biliteracy program. An ethnic language school may provide the necessary instruction, but the student's school awards the Seal. Please note that a student seeking this Seal will also need to demonstrate English language proficiency by test only, even if the student is a native English speaker. [Learn more here.](#)

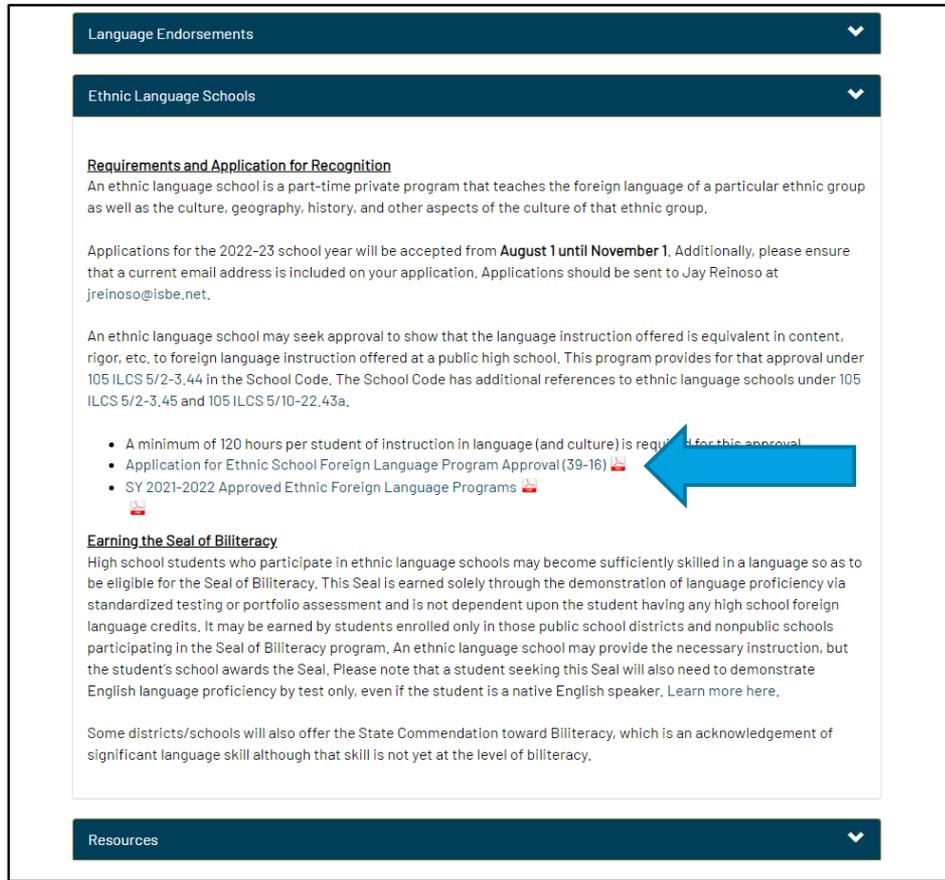
Some districts/schools will also offer the State Commendation toward Biliteracy, which is an acknowledgement of significant language skill although that skill is not yet at the level of biliteracy.

Resources



Finding the Application

- Click on the hyperlink of the second bullet point to access the application.



Language Endorsements

Ethnic Language Schools

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Resources

Completing the Application



Completing the Application

Use your "Mouse" or "Tab" key to move through the fields and check boxes. After completing last field, save document to hard drive to make future updates or click print button.

 **Illinois**
State Board of Education
555 W. Monroe St., Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60661

APPLICATION FOR ETHNIC SCHOOL
FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM APPROVAL

MULTILINGUAL DEPARTMENT

NAME OF CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR	TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)
ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip Code)	ADMINISTRATOR E-MAIL
	WEBSITE (Optional)

The governance of _____
School Name

located at _____
Street Address, City, State, Zip Code

_____ hereby applies for foreign language program approval by the Illinois State Board of Education
Telephone Number (Include Area Code)

for instruction in _____ for the _____ school year.
Name of Foreign Language Course(s)

Complete second page of form.

The applicant assures that:

- it is an ethnic school, defined in the School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.44) as a part-time private school which teaches the foreign language of a particular ethnic group as well as the culture, geography, history and other aspects of a particular ethnic group;
- per the requirements of 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 1.465, each teacher shall possess at least a baccalaureate degree and have completed at least 20 semester hours of credit in the foreign language taught, both of which shall have been awarded by a regionally accredited college or university;
- per the requirements of 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 1.465, the program shall contain at least 120 clock hours of instruction plus outside preparation for each unit of credit issued upon successful completion of the instruction, although less than a full unit of credit may also be awarded in proportion to the amount of instruction received; and
- documents to verify each item of assurance are available for review upon request by representatives of the Illinois State Board of Education and/or by officials of the local public school district to which students seek to transfer foreign language credit(s). Such documents may include school

- Fill out the top portion of the application. Please ensure that a current email is included with the application.

Completing the Application

- Review requirements a through d.
- Sign and date the bottom portion of the application.

Complete second page of form.

The applicant assures that:

- it is an ethnic school, defined in the School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.44) as a part-time private school which teaches the foreign language of a particular ethnic group as well as the culture, geography, history and other aspects of a particular ethnic group;
- per the requirements of 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 1.465, each teacher shall possess at least a baccalaureate degree and have completed at least 20 semester hours of credit in the foreign language taught, both of which shall have been awarded by a regionally accredited college or university;
- per the requirements of 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 1.465, the program shall contain at least 120 clock hours of instruction plus outside preparation for each unit of credit issued upon successful completion of the instruction, although less than a full unit of credit may also be awarded in proportion to the amount of instruction received; and
- documents to verify each item of assurance are available for review upon request by representatives of the Illinois State Board of Education and/or by officials of the local public school district to which students seek to transfer foreign language credit(s). Such documents may include school informational brochures, course syllabi, class schedules, and official teacher transcripts.

The applicant understands that:

- annual application by an ethnic school for approval of its foreign language shall be made on forms provided by the State Board of Education; and
- approval shall be granted on an annual basis, provided that a previously approved ethnic school continues to comply with the minimum standards set forth for such foreign language program approval.

We, the undersigned, attest that the information provided and assured is accurate and true and agree that the Illinois State Board of Education and any public school district to which student credit is to be transferred may, with appropriate notice, visit the foreign language program(s) in operation.

Digital or Original Signature of Governing Board Official
Application Date

Digital or Original Signature of Chief School Administrator
Print Name of Chief School Administrator

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION USE ONLY

This Foreign Language Application is:

Approved Denied

Date

Digital or Original Signature of Authorized Illinois State Board of Education Agent

ISBE 39-16 (10/21)

Completing the Application

- Complete the seven columns that are listed on page 2 of the application.
- Under Name of Foreign Language Class(es), please ensure that every grade is listed (e.g., 1st, 5th, etc.).
- Under the final column, include the total number of clock hours (also known as instruction hours).

APPLICATION FOR ETHNIC SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM APPROVAL

LIST PROGRAM CLASSES BELOW

SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS (Street, City, Zip Code)	TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)	NAME OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASS(ES)	OPENING DATE OF CLASS(ES)	CLOSING DATE OF CLASS(ES)	DAYS OF WEEK CLASSES ARE HELD	TIME CLASSES ARE HELD



Submitting the Application



Submitting the Application

- Email the completed application to Jay Reinoso jreinoso@isbe.net by **November 1**.
- Ensure that a minimum of 120 hours of instruction in the language is provided to students.
- Don't forget to sign the application!

Thank you!



Illinois
State Board of
Education