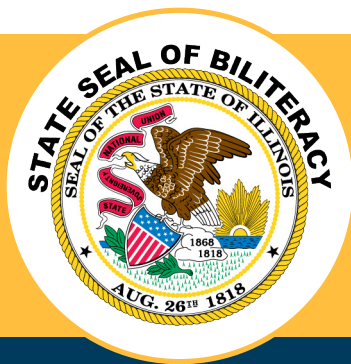


The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

Parents Guide



Is your student bilingual?

They may be eligible to earn the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diploma and transcript.

What is the State Seal of Biliteracy?

It is an award presented at graduation in recognition of attaining a high level of proficiency in English and in one or more additional languages. A student can earn COLLEGE CREDIT at public colleges and universities in the state of Illinois.

Who is the intended recipient of the Seal?

High school graduates who have a heritage language other than English and English-speaking students who have studied a new language other than English are the intended recipients of this distinction. Bilingualism is an asset to be celebrated!

How is the Seal earned?

Your student's high school must register to participate in the state's program every year. Students show evidence of English proficiency via any of the state-approved methods. An approved exam or portfolio may be used to demonstrate proficiency depending on which other language the student speaks.

Want more information?

Ask your high school's counseling department and let them know your child speaks another language! Or send an email to biliteracy@isbe.net with any questions.

Why did Illinois establish the state seal of biliteracy?

- ✓ To encourage the study of world languages.
- ✓ To officially certify attainment of biliteracy.
- ✓ To provide employers with a method of identifying multilinguals.
- ✓ To provide universities with an additional method to recognize applicants seeking admission and language placement.
- ✓ To prepare students with 21st century skills.
- ✓ To recognize the value of world language and native language instruction.
- ✓ To strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community!

What assessments can be used to demonstrate proficiency?

English Proficiency

1. ACT or SAT scores
2. ACCESS (for EL students)
3. AP Language & Composition scores
4. Dual Credit coursework
5. STAMP 4S test
6. AAPPL

World Language Proficiency

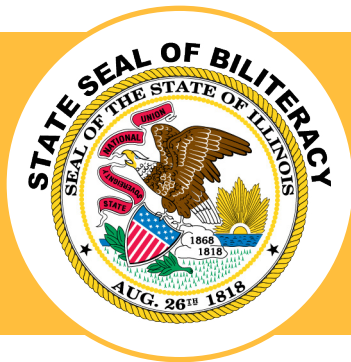
1. AP Language & Culture score
 2. STAMP 4S exam
 3. AAPPL exam
 4. Other ACTFL domain exams
 5. ALTA exam
- Other portfolio methods are available*

Details and score requirements can be found on ISBE's Seal of Biliteracy [website](#).



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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).**

