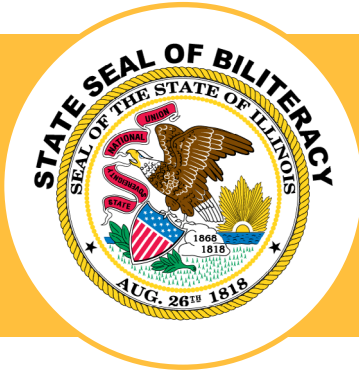


# The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

## 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.

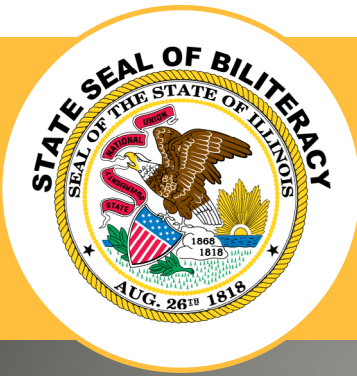


Illinois accepts a variety of proficiency exams or portfolio options for students to demonstrate proficiency in English and subsequent languages. The approved language exams are listed on our website. Contact [biliteracy@isbe.net](mailto:biliteracy@isbe.net) for assistance.

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).**

# The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

## State Seal of 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. This recognition is designated on a student's transcript and high school diploma.

### 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: 3.0 GPA
4. STAMPS 4S: 6
5. ACT: 21 composite or 20 ELA\*
6. AAPPL Form B: I-5 (Intermediate High)
7. SAT: 480 Evidence Based Reading and Writing
8. IB Language A: 4HL or 5 SL

#### World Language Proficiency (choose one)

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

\*ACT + Writing must be administered in order to receive an ELA score

**All qualifying test scores and portfolio submissions must be from the student's 9-12th grade academic years.**

More information is available on the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy [website](https://www.isbe.net/biliteracy).

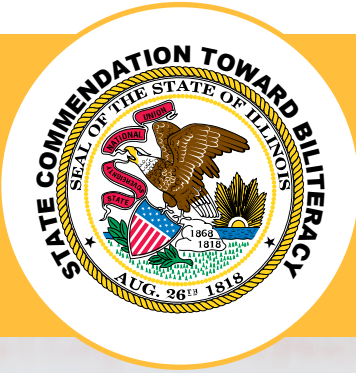
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April 2025



# The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

## 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 component
2. AP English Language and Composition exam: 3
3. ELA Dual Credit: 2.5 GPA
4. STAMPS 4S: 4
5. ACT: 21 composite or 20 ELA\*
6. AAPPL Form B: I-1 (Intermediate Low)
7. SAT: 480 Evidence Based Reading and Writing
8. IB Language A: 4HL or 5 SL

#### World Language Proficiency (choose one)

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

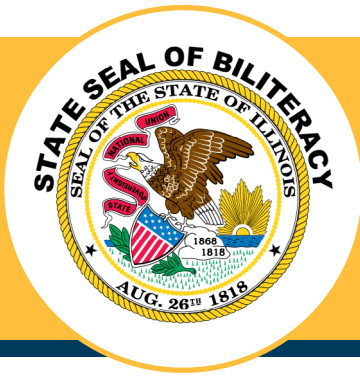
\*ACT + writing must be administered in order to receive an ELA score

**All qualifying test scores and portfolio submissions must be from the student's 9-12th grade academic years.**

More information is available on the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy [website](https://www.isbe.net/biliteracy).

# The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

## 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.

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\*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](#).