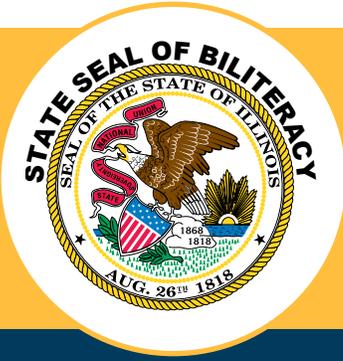


The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

Parent Guide



What is the State Seal of Biliteracy?

The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy is a graduation award that may be presented to students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English plus at least one language other than English (LOTE). The Seal is officially designated on the student's transcript and with a graphic on the student's diploma.

Who can get the Seal?

This award is intended for all high school graduates in Illinois who can demonstrate the required level of language proficiency. There is no course requirement or seat-time minimum. This award signifies communicative competence in English and a LOTE, regardless of how or when proficiency in English or the LOTE was achieved.

How is the Seal earned?

The school from which your child graduates awards the Seal as a graduation award. During Grades 9-12, your child may show their proficiency in English and a LOTE with any of the state-approved assessments. They do not have to test one language before the other.

Want more information?

Visit the [Seal of Biliteracy website](https://www.isbe.net/multilingual) for more details, such as college credits awarded for the Seal at different universities. You can also ask your high school's principal, counselors, or language teachers about the Seal program.

www.isbe.net/multilingual

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Does your child know a language other than English? They may be eligible for this award.

How can they demonstrate their language proficiency?

English Proficiency

1. ACT with writing
2. SAT with essay
3. AP Language & Composition
4. Dual Credit GPA
5. [Language tests](#) approved by the program

LOTE Proficiency

1. Language and Culture
2. Other language tests approved by the program

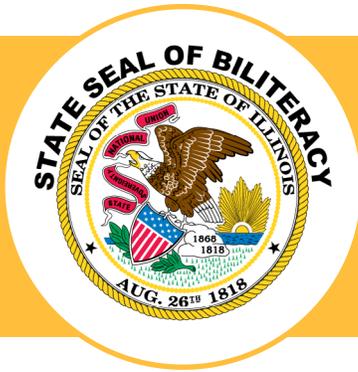
All qualifying test scores and portfolio submissions must be from the student's 9-12th grade academic years.

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!

The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

Background



The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy is a graduation award that may be presented to students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English plus at least one language other than English (LOTE). The Seal is officially designated on the student's transcript and with a graphic on the student's diploma.

This award is intended for all high school graduates in Illinois who can demonstrate the level of language proficiency required. There is no course requirement or seat-time minimum. This award signifies communicative competence in English and a LOTE, regardless of how or when proficiency in English or the LOTE was achieved.

Bilingualism is an asset that reflects not only language proficiency but also cultural competence. These skills are essential for 21st century graduates. The Seal of Biliteracy formally acknowledges these strengths by providing students with a meaningful credential. Implementing the Seal of Biliteracy in your school or district demonstrates a commitment to preparing and supporting globally-competent graduates. It also motivates students to achieve at high levels by giving them a clear, rewarding goal. One of the most important factors in a successful Seal of Biliteracy program is fostering a school climate that values and celebrates linguistic and cultural diversity.

In Illinois, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.159 codifies two further benefits to earning the State Seal. Public institutions of higher education must recognize the Seal as equivalent to two years of high school foreign language credit and must also award college credit to recipients. For more information, please visit the resources section of the program [website](#).

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](#).**