

VISION

*Prepare students to become
21st Century global citizens
in a multilingual world.*

WHAT IS BILITERACY?

The ability to speak, read, and
write in two or more languages
at a proficient level

AWARD COMPONENTS

- Seal on Diploma
- Transcript notation

MODELS

School districts in the following
states already encourage and
award the Seal of Biliteracy

California
Indiana
Illinois
Minnesota
New Mexico
New York
Louisiana
Texas
Washington
Florida (voluntary)
Oregon (voluntary)



Seal of Biliteracy

Contact Information

Rafael Segarra

ELL Director
IPSD 204

Laura McAran

World Language Dept. Chair
Waubonsie Valley H.S.

Tonya Koppin

World Language Dept. Chair
Neuqua Valley H.S.

Gabriel Medina

World Language Dept. Chair
Metea Valley H.S.



STATE OF ILLINOIS SEAL OF BILITERACY



A Vision for Our Students

A Recognition for
Eligible Graduating
High School Seniors

WHAT IS THE SEAL OF BILITERACY?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award approved by the Illinois State Board of Education and given by the school district in recognition of students who have studied and attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English, by high school graduation. The Seal of Biliteracy is a statement of accomplishment for attaining competency in two or more languages and viewed as an asset when applying for college admission or employment. Participation by a school, school district or county is voluntary.

HOW DO I GET THE SEAL?

- Students may request to take district provided assessments such as: AP Tests, APPLE Test, SAT, ACCESS Test,
- Students can take other assessments approved by the state not offered in district.
- Students are responsible for providing proof of approved tests successful completion with their application
- Applications are reviewed by the World Language Department and ELL Chairs
- Approval is given and information is added to the district electronic records
- Seal of Biliteracy is added to the student transcripts and adhered to the Diplomas

WHAT LANGUAGES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

At the moment, District 204 will be offering assessment for proficiency in 5 languages:

- Spanish
- French
- Chinese
- German
- English

Other languages are not being offered in-house at this time due to lack of resources to do so. However, a student may test for proficiency in another language if the test is offered outside of the district and provide proof of that language assessment to the appointed person at each high school. Any assessment taken outside of the district must be one of the assessments already approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.

IS THERE A COST FOR THE TESTS

Yes. Cost of each assessment varies based on the individual test. The district has no control over the cost of the assessments.

Some of the assessments are free when taken at the school district (SAT, ACCESS)

Students are responsible for registering and covering the cost of the assessment.

TIMELINE TO TAKE ASSESSMENTS

Students assessments scores are able to be considered for the Seal of Biliteracy if they are **only** taken during the 4 years of High School.

BENEFITS

How does the students benefit from the Seal of Biliteracy?

- Students develop competency in both English and at least one other language.
- Universities will be able to identify students eligible for advanced language placement.
- Employers will find job candidates who are appropriate for positions requiring the biliteracy skills.
- Students get formally recognized by the State of Illinois, which values both foreign and native language instruction in public schools and in our society.
- Opportunities become available in a wide range of social, educational, economic, political and global contexts.
- According to recent research, the ability to speak more than one language stave off memory loss in later years.