

Seal of Biliteracy: Update on State Implementation

Status of states with the Seal of Biliteracy in place (according to the most current information received):

California:

Passed in 2011, implemented in 2012; **not tied to a specific proficiency level** (evidence includes years of study of a language)

New York:

Passed in 2012; criterion is **“high level of proficiency** in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English;” 2014-15 will be a one-year pilot implementation program; 2015-16 will be full implementation with participating districts

Illinois:

Passed in 2013; presently developing administrative rules – proposed: **Intermediate High**; alternative process established based on multiple inputs, targeting Intermediate Mid (when no test exists for one or more of listening, speaking, reading, writing; students with disabilities for whom the standardized assessment is inappropriate); State Commendation for achieving Intermediate Low

Texas:

Passed by legislature in 2013 as an acknowledgement of outstanding achievement in bilingualism and biliteracy as part of HB 5, which revised high school graduation requirements; 3+ on AP, 4+ on IB, 3 credits with at least a GPA of 80 on a scale of 100 or a national assessment at **Intermediate High**

Minnesota:

State Bilingual and Multilingual Seals were passed (HB 2397) in 2013. Students must demonstrate Foreign Services Institute level 3 “functional native proficiency” (**Superior level**); students who earn a seal can receive high school elective credits; community service credit; and Minnesota colleges and universities **MUST** award foreign language credit for those earning a seal.

New Mexico:

Passed by legislature in 2014; developing administrative rules. Weblink: <http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/14%20Regular/bills/house/HB0330.pdf> **“demonstrated proficiency”** through a 3+ on an AP test, a 4+ on an IB test, “proficient” on a national assessment, an alternative assessment of proficiency (presentation, interview, essay, portfolio). Criteria to be developed with a Task Force of stakeholders.

Louisiana:

HB 1016 was signed into law May 2014; meet English requirements in addition to earning or ACTFL **Advanced Low** level; an AP 3+, IB 4+, successful completion of a four-year high school course of study in a world language or of seven or more Carnegie units in language or content courses in a world language immersion setting; or passing a foreign government's approved language examination at the European B2 level.

Washington

Passed in 2014; in the process of determining what criteria will be used: Advanced Placement score of 3 or higher, International Baccalaureate score of 4 or higher, SAT II score of 600 or higher, international exam, such as the DELE (for Spanish), DELF (for French), and HSK (for Mandarin) at the level of A2 or

higher based on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), **Intermediate Mid** or higher on a nationally available test of proficiency, earning 4 Competency-Based Credits by demonstrating proficiency at Intermediate Mid level or higher

States with pending legislation or a Department of Education initiative:

Utah:

State School Board has a committee working on high school graduation requirements and additive seals of achievement. It has already been agreed that a World Language requirement will become a seal and added to the high school diploma. Two key components have been solidified:

1. Name: Seal of Biliterate Proficiency

2. Two levels:

- Gold, **Intermediate Mid**, for students who wait until secondary school to start a world language, or heritage students that have average proficiency in their native language.
- Platinum, **Advanced Low**, for students who start in Dual Language Immersion programs or students who have higher proficiency in their native language other than English.

New Jersey:

Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey (FLENJ) and New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/ New Jersey Bilingual Educators (NJTESOL-NJBE) collaborating on a pilot project with several districts to award students the Seal of Biliteracy; looking at a threshold level of **Intermediate High**, but may be **Intermediate Mid**, or 3+ on AP, 4+ on IB, i3 on ACTFL AAPPL, intermediate mid 5 of STAMP, Intermed Mid on ACTFL OPIC and ACTFL OPI and the WPT.

Maryland:

Maryland Seal of Biliteracy is in the planning stages, considering **Intermediate High** as the threshold level

Massachusetts

Rhode Island (targeting **Intermediate Mid**)

Wisconsin

North Carolina

Oregon

Indiana

Ohio

Virginia

Florida