

# Invest in Biliteracy: The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy and the Pathway to Bilingualism

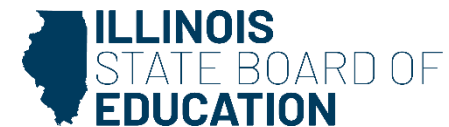
COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING – TINLEY PARK – JULY 18, 2024

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# Agenda

**Introduction**

**Implementing a Seal of Biliteracy Program**

**Benefits**

**Continued Language Study**

# Introduction to the Seal of Biliteracy

# What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

*The concept of the Seal of Biliteracy was started by Californians Together in 2008 to recognize the diverse language and cultural backgrounds of students.*

*Now, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have implemented state Seals of Biliteracy.*

The Seal is an award given by a school or school district in recognition of students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English **and** an additional language by high school graduation.

It is tangible proof of language proficiency beyond just seeing a course on a transcript.

- ✓ Can be earned in more than one language
- ✓ Physical seal and designation on student's diploma and transcript
- ✓ **Good for college credit at all public colleges and universities in Illinois**



# Implementing and Growing a Seal of Biliteracy Program

# How do students earn the Seal?



- Must demonstrate proficiency in two (or more) languages during grades 9-12 via approved ISBE assessments
  - A portfolio option is available in certain circumstances
- Awarded at graduation, appearing on diplomas and transcripts.

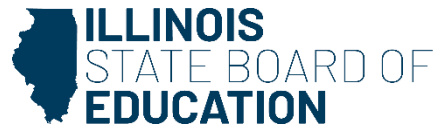
Common Ways to Demonstrate English Proficiency	Common Ways to Demonstrate Language Other than English Proficiency
SAT ACT AP Testing Dual Credit Classes ACCESS for ELs	AAPPL STAMP AP Testing ACTFL OPI, WPT, RPT, LPT

# How does a district begin a Seal of Biliteracy program?



- Complete an application, **every year**, by **October 1**.
  - This allows us to publish award data every year after students graduate
- Publicize your program
  - Requirement of participation
  - Targeted [One pagers](#) to advertise to students and parents in multiple languages
- Decide on appropriate assessments for your district keeping in mind:
  - Language(s)
  - Timeline of assessments
  - Cost of assessments
  - District size
- Celebrate student success in the Seal of Biliteracy
  - Awards assembly, certificates, yard signs, and more
- **Add the Seal to diploma and transcripts when students graduate**
  - Requirement of participation in State Seal program

Public Schools	Non-Public Schools
-Complete application and reporting in SIS (RCDT admin) -Upload data in SIS by September 15 of the following school year	-Email application and reporting docs ( <a href="#">found here</a> ) to: <a href="mailto:biliteracy@isbe.net">biliteracy@isbe.net</a>



# 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 course
4. STAMPS 4S: Intermediate High
5. ACT: College ready benchmark (English) or 21 composite
6. AAPPL: 1-5 (Intermediate High)(form B)
7. SAT: 480 ELA score
8. TOEFL: 85
9. TOEIC: 550

#### World Language Proficiency (choose one)

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

All ISBE-approved tests require students to achieve [Intermediate High](#) (or equivalent) in **all four** domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

More methods for demonstrating proficiency and other exams that are specific to certain languages can be found on our website and on our list of [approved assessments](#).

★ "At a Glance" information like this is available on ISBE's Seal of Biliteracy webpage



# Funding option:

## **Title IV – A:**

Supplemental assessments that qualify students for the State Seal of Biliteracy are allowable under Title IV-A.

Note: the Title IV-A grant has specific funding requirements (percentages of funding spent in 3 areas). The assessment would fall under **Well-Rounded education** area.

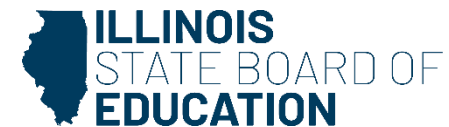
# How do school districts identify interested students?



- Each district **must** have a Seal of Biliteracy coordinator
- Be an advocate for your students
  - Counselors, teachers, administrators, club sponsors, coaches, etc.
- Student population:
  - Multilingual students and English Learners (ELs)
  - Students with a home language other than English who may not have been identified as ELs
  - Ethnic Language School students
  - World language students
  - Refugees and immigrants

The Seal is a graduation award, but language acquisition occurs before graduation!  
(Support students' language pathways prior to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Students can qualify with any approved assessments during grades 9-12



# How does a district build a strong Seal of Biliteracy program?



- Foster an encouraging, welcoming environment for all languages
- Connect departments across the building
  - Language and Career Technical Education (CTE)
- Get to know students' goals after high school
  - College? Technical school? Working? Moving abroad?
  - Explain language options/benefits for their unique pathway
- Maintain connections with former Seal of Biliteracy students
  - Invite them to speak at presentations, career fairs, etc.
  - Show what the Seal can do after high school for students
- **The Seal isn't the end, but the beginning**
  - Encourage students to continue language studies after high school
  - Career paths and opportunities that language opens
  - Economic, social, and professional benefits of speaking multiple languages in the workforce.

# Benefits of Earning the Seal of Biliteracy

# Benefits of a Seal of Biliteracy Program from the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA)

## Benefits of Receiving the State Seal of Biliteracy

Research shows that receiving the Seal of Biliteracy has academic, professional, and social benefits for students.

The seal can

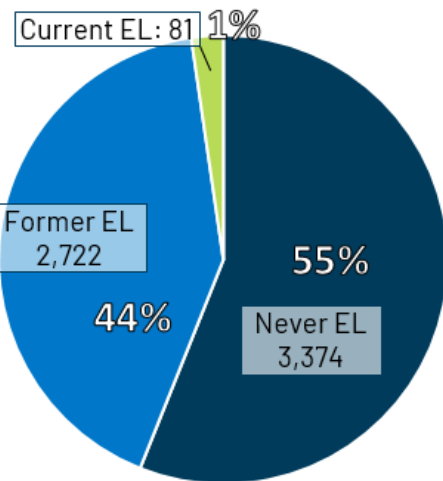
- encourage students to study and pursue fluency in another language.<sup>3</sup>
- help colleges and universities identify bilingual students and award credit to applicants for the attainment of high-level skills in another language.<sup>3</sup>
- help boost job opportunities and elevate base salary/pay in many fields.<sup>3</sup>
- demonstrate the support and value of language diversity.<sup>3</sup>
- strengthen intergroup relationships within a community.<sup>3</sup>
- encourage English learners to develop proficiency in English.<sup>4</sup>
- acknowledge and reinforce the value of English learners' (ELs') home languages and cultures.<sup>5</sup>

## Additional Benefits for Schools:

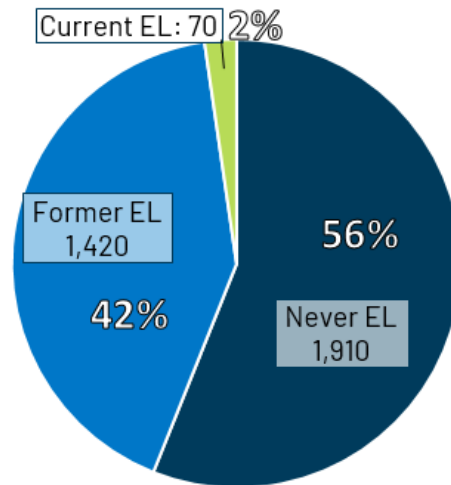
- Grow your own bilingual teachers
- Create a more welcoming and SEL friendly environment in school
- Honor home languages and cultures of multilingual families
- Foster relationships with multilingual families

# Award Trends and Data: Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy\*

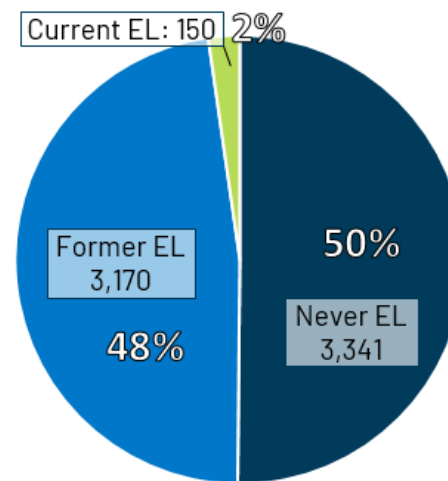
2020



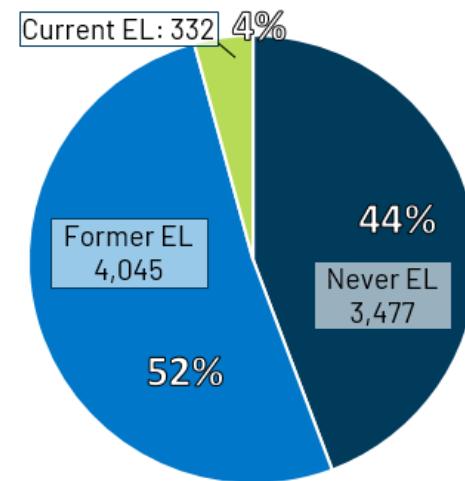
2021



2022



2023



*public school data\**

## Examples of Financial Benefits: College Credits for Seal of Biliteracy for Fall 2024

	Seal of Biliteracy	Savings of up to...
Eastern Illinois University	8 credits	\$2,706
Aurora University	8 credits	\$3,600
Northern Illinois University	Seal: 12 credits Commendation: 9 credits	\$5,115
University of Illinois @ Champaign-Urbana	8 credits	\$4,237
Illinois State University	8 credits	\$3,217

# Course Credit for Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy at Public Colleges and Universities in Illinois

## Course Credit for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy at Public Colleges and Universities in Illinois

Per Illinois state [statute](#), "Each public community college and public university in this State shall establish criteria to translate a State Seal of Biliteracy into course credit based on foreign language course equivalencies identified by the community college's or university's faculty and staff and, upon request from an enrolled student, **the community college or university shall award foreign language course credit to a student who has received a State Seal of Biliteracy.** Students enrolled in a public community college or public university who have received a State Seal of Biliteracy must request course credit for their seal within 3 academic years after graduating from high school."

*While the legislation requires that schools translate the Seal into course credit, many schools also use the Seal as a placement tool or to satisfy certain graduation requirements. It is the student's responsibility to seek these credits and approvals in a timely manner at the institution of higher education.*

The following information was gathered from individual college and university websites and is subject to change as unique entities update their websites. If you encounter a broken link or incorrect information, please send an email to [biliteracy@isbe.net](mailto:biliteracy@isbe.net).

Chicago State University	A student who has received the State Seal of Biliteracy will be awarded a total of <b>6 credits</b> (lower division). This is the equivalent of first semester (3 credits) and second semester (3 credits) of language study at CSU. When the seal is granted in a language not offered at Chicago State University, 6 credit hours of lower division foreign language elective will be awarded.	Published yearly in the CSU course catalog PDF
Eastern Illinois University	A student who has received the State Seal of Biliteracy will receive a total of <b>8 credits</b> (lower division). This is the equivalent of first semester (4 credits) and second semester (4 credits) of language study at EIU.	<a href="#">Registrar, Biliteracy</a>
Governors State University	Students who present appropriate documentation of the Seal to their advisor within three years of high school graduation will be awarded <b>six hours</b> of foreign language credit.	<a href="#">Admission Information</a>
Illinois State University	Illinois State University accepts the State Seal of Biliteracy from any state as equivalent to two semesters ( <b>8 credits</b> ) of language study (LAN 111-112) in languages offered at the University. If the seal is granted in a language not offered at Illinois State University, eight credit hours of lower division foreign language will be awarded.	<a href="#">Office of the Registrar</a>
	If you are earning a B.S. in the College of Arts and Sciences, then your language requirement is to complete a world languages class at the level of 112 or higher, or completion of Level III of one high school world language or earning the Seal of Biliteracy.	<a href="#">Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures</a>
Northeastern Illinois University	Students who receive the State Seal of Biliteracy will receive a total of <b>6 credits</b> (lower division) of language study at Northeastern.	<a href="#">Transfer Center</a>

Home > Multilingual > Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

MULTILINGUAL  
Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

### MULTILINGUAL ILLINOIS STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY

A public school district or nonpublic school may establish the State Seal of Biliteracy program to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and in one or more other foreign, or world, languages. This recognition must be designated on a student's transcript and high school diploma with a receipt of the State Seal of Biliteracy, provided that all conditions and requirements for the program have been met.

- 2023 - 2024 District Participation
- One-Page Summaries
- Nonpublic Schools Only: Resources for Program Implementation
- Language Assessments
- Public Districts Only: Resources for Program Implementation
- Rules and Regulations
- Seal and Commendation Data
- Resources
  - **College Credit for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy**
  - FAQ for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy
  - Benefits of Receiving the Seal of Biliteracy
  - Seal of Biliteracy National Program
  - Center for Applied Linguistics Foreign Language Assessment Directory
  - Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
  - Education Week Blog: How the State Seal of Biliteracy is a Game Changer





# Continued Language Education—Beyond High School

# For higher education: A student has the Seal of Biliteracy, now what?

- **Get a minor in the language!**
  - Example for Illinois State University:
    - "You already have 8 credit hours. If you take 16 more credit hours, you will graduate with a Spanish Minor. This means..."
- **Global Studies: Students already have the language component for a minor!**
  - Example for University of Illinois @ Champaign:
    - "You already have 8 credit hours of language study. This already fulfills the language requirement for a Global Studies minor. This means..."
- **Business, Healthcare, Hospitality Majors benefit from language!**
  - Example for Western Illinois University:
    - "You already have approximately 14 credit hours already. Take 3 classes to earn a minor in the language or 21 more credits to double major in the language. This means..."

# For higher education: A student has the Seal of Biliteracy, now what?

- **Become a bilingual teacher in Illinois!**
  - Example for Northern Illinois University:
    - "You already have 12 credit hours. You need 33 credits to become a French teacher in Illinois. You already passed the language content test to be a Bilingual or World Language teacher because you have the Seal. You are 50% done with the language tests you need to be a teacher in Illinois!  
This means..."

# Continued Language Education for Students with the Seal

- **Encourage students that the Seal isn't the end, but the beginning**
  - Pursue a minor in language(s) or Global Studies
  - More advanced language can help certain career paths
  - Opportunities to study abroad and reap benefits of international study
- **Pursue the Global Seal of Biliteracy**
  - International recognition
  - Level up skills to achieve "Working Fluency" or "Professional Fluency"

# Key Dates 2024-2025

Date	Activity
August 1, 2024	SY 2024-25 applications to participate in the Seal program open, annual webinar posted. Districts must complete this application in SIS <i>every year</i> .
October 1, 2024	Application due in SIS. District must have at least one 11th-grade and one 12th- grade student enrolled in SIS for the current school year to access application.
No later than 45 days prior to awarding the Seal/Commendation	<b><u>Final</u></b> window to apply to the program.
September 15, 2025	SY 2024-25 final award data due in SIS.

# Contact Us!

## Email

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[emizera@isbe.net](mailto:emizera@isbe.net)

**Questions,  
feedback, connections,  
IDEAS!**

## Website

[isbe.net/Pages/  
Illinois-State-Seal-of-Biliteracy.aspx](http://isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Seal-of-Biliteracy.aspx)

ISBE → Multilingual → Seal of Biliteracy

Thank you