The New York State Seal of Biliteracy

New York State Board of Regents
Monday, January 11, 2016
What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

- It is a formal recognition of a student’s proficiency and achievement in English and one or more Languages other than English (LOTE).

- It can take the form of a seal that appears on the student’s diploma as well as a notation on the official transcript.
What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

To recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English.

(Chapter 271 of the Laws of 2012 (Section 815 of Education Law)).
PRINCIPLE 4

Districts and schools recognize that bilingualism and biliteracy are assets and provide opportunities for all students to earn a Seal of Biliteracy upon obtaining a high school diploma.
California initiated the first State Seal of Biliteracy in 2008.

Since then, numerous states have approved the Seal or are in the process of initiating one.
The New York State Seal of Biliteracy was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor on July 31, 2012 behind the sponsorship of Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo.

In 2013-2014, a committee was formed to explore the most effective way to develop the Seal for the state.

In 2014-2015, NYSED piloted the Seal with 6 districts and 20 schools within New York State.
Collaborations

Along with numerous teachers and schools throughout NYS, the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages has worked closely with a number of organizations and groups to develop the proposed criteria, guidelines and processes for the New York State Seal of Biliteracy.

- New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT)
- The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
- NYS Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks (RBERN)
- The NYS Seal of Biliteracy Pilot Schools/Districts
- Foreign Language Association of Chairpersons and Supervisors (FLACS)
- New York Capital Area Languages (NYCAL)
- The College Board
- The NYS Seal of Biliteracy Workgroup
- The College Board
Top 10 ELL Home Languages 2013-14 SY:

- Spanish, 64.3%
- Chinese, 10.6%
- Arabic, 4.3%
- Bengali, 3.1%
- Russian, 1.7%
- Urdu, 1.7%
- Haitian, 1.6%
- French, 1.2%
- Karen, 1.0%
- Nepali, 0.8%

Linguistically diverse state with over 200 languages spoken by our students.
Percentage of Students in LOTE Classes by language 2014-2015

Spanish, 72.8%
French, 11.6%
Italian, 6.6%
Chinese, 3.0%
Latin, 2.6%
American Sign Language, 0.9%
German, 0.9%
Russian, 0.4%
Japanese, 0.5%
Korean, 0.2%
Released in March 2015

(ACTFL, NABE, NCSSFL and TESOL)

Demonstrate language proficiency through multiple ways such as portfolios that can evaluate the four modalities of the language and validated tests as determined by the state.
Over 230 students completed the Seal of Biliteracy program through the pilot schools in Spanish, French, Italian, Chinese, Bangla, Turkish, Polish and Swahili.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICTS</th>
<th>SCHOOLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| NYCDOE            | Long Island City HS  
|                   | Manhattan Academy for Arts and Language  
|                   | Stuyvesant HS  
|                   | Stuyvesant HS  
|                   | Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics  
|                   | Manhattan Bridges HS  
|                   | Gregorio Luperon HS for Science and Mathematics  
|                   | Marble Hill HS for International Studies  
|                   | High School of World Cultures  
|                   | Pan American International HS  
|                   | International School of Liberal Arts  
|                   | Susan Wagner HS  
|                   | High School for Arts and Business  |
| NEW ROCHELLE      | New Rochelle HS  |
| EAST IRONDEQUOIT  | Eastridge HS  |
| BUFFALO           | Lafayette HS  
|                   | City Honors School  
|                   | Frederick Law Olmstead  
|                   | Hutchinson Technical HS  |
| SOUTHAMPTON       | Southampton HS  |
| CATSKILL          | Catskill HS  |
Complete all requirements for graduating with a NYS Regents diploma;

Point system to demonstrate proficiency in English and another language.

- 3 points by meeting the criteria for proficiency in English
- 3 points by meeting the criteria for proficiency in a World Language
Some Proposed Options for Earning Points

- Nationally Recognized Checkpoint C Exams (e.g. AP)
- English Language Arts, Home Language Arts and World Language Coursework
- NYSESLAT exam
- NYS English Regents exam or the NYS Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core)
- Prior coursework abroad
- Projects/Essays
- Portfolios
Students must earn **3 points** by meeting the criteria for proficiency in **English** as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in <strong>English</strong></th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score 75 or higher on the NYS Comprehensive English Regents Examination or 80 or higher on the NYS Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core), or ELLs can score 75 or above on two Regents exams other than English, without translation.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELLs score at the Commanding level on two modalities on the NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete all 11th and 12th grade ELA courses with an average of 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the commissioner.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieve the following scores on the examinations listed below: - 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) English Language or English Literature examination. - 80 or higher on all components of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present a culminating project, scholarly essay or portfolio that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district’s Seal of Biliteracy Committee to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in English.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students must earn **3 points** by meeting the criteria for proficiency in a **World Language** as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in a <strong>World Language</strong></th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete a Checkpoint C level World Language course, with a grade of 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the commissioner for both the coursework and final examination consistent with Checkpoint C standards.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For students enrolled in a bilingual education program, complete all required Home Language Arts (HLA) coursework and district HLA exam with an 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the commissioner.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide transcripts from a school in a foreign country showing at least three years of instruction in the student’s home/native language with equivalent grade average of B or higher.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score at a proficient level on an accredited Checkpoint C World Language assessment (See “Checkpoint C World Language Assessments and Minimum Scores” on the following slides.)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present a culminating project, scholarly essay, or portfolio that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district’s Seal of Biliteracy Committee and that is aligned to the NYS Checkpoint C Learning Standards to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in the target language.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSESSMENT</td>
<td>MIN SCORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP: Advanced Placement Examination</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB: International Baccalaureate</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAMP4S: Standard Based Measurement of Proficiency</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELE: (Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language) Cervantes Institute of NYC Spanish</td>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPPL: The ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages</td>
<td>I-5</td>
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### Checkpoint C Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>MIN SCORE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPI</strong></td>
<td>The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OPIc</strong></td>
<td>The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview Computer Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WPT/BWT</strong></td>
<td>The ACTFL Writing Proficiency Test/Business Writing Test</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RTP</strong></td>
<td>The ACTFL Reading Proficiency Test</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LTP</strong></td>
<td>The ACTFL Listening Proficiency Test</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALIRA</strong></td>
<td>The ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SLPI: ASL</strong></td>
<td>American Sign Language Proficiency Interview</td>
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In this section, students should take exams in as many modalities (speaking, listening, reading and writing) as available in that target language to qualify for Checkpoint C credit.
Buffalo School District

http://youtu.be/s1i799VgZpE
How districts can establish a Seal of Biliteracy program

- Create a Seal of Biliteracy Committee.
  - Communicate the program to students, parents and public
  - Review student applications
  - Advise students
  - Monitor progress
  - Evaluate student work

- Notify NYSED of intent to establish program through application form that will allow us to provide feedback and guidance.

- Complete district end of year report notifying NYSED of students receiving the Seal and how they earn the seal.
Contingent upon adoption from the NYS Board of Regents, NYSED will introduce the Seal of Biliteracy program to begin statewide in 2016.

Create guidance documents and forms, develop webinar(s).

Provide informational sessions/conferences to help promote the Seal of Biliteracy and assist districts in establishing a Seal of Biliteracy program in their schools.

On-going process
  • Higher Education
  • Update requirements