



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

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### Board Policy Statement

#### 6146.40 - Connecticut State Department of Education | Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines

Approved on October 15, 2018

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The District will award the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy (Seal of Biliteracy) to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more languages. The Board of Education will affix the Seal of Biliteracy on a student's diploma utilizing the criteria established by the State Board of Education.

Foreign language is defined as a world language other than English and includes American Sign Language and any other language spoken by a federally recognized Native American tribe.

#### **Dissemination of Program Information**

All students shall receive information on the Seal of Biliteracy upon first entering middle school and again at the entry to high school. The information can be provided to students, parents/guardians via student/parent handbooks and by placement on the district/school website.

The information shall indicate that students may acquire proficiency in multiple languages through various pathways. Those available in the District include, but are not limited to:

- Traditional high school world language programs
- ESL programs
- Time spent immersed in the target culture
- Saturday language schools
- Heritage language knowledge

#### **Eligibility**

All students are eligible to receive the Seal of Biliteracy based on evidence of achieving the designated level of language proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. Students may demonstrate the state-determined level of proficiency in English, as well as one or more additional languages in grade 10, 11, or 12.

## Earning the Seal of Biliteracy and Eligibility Criteria

To attain the Seal of Biliteracy, students' use of the language must be demonstrated, rather than their knowledge about the language. Therefore, a student must demonstrate proficiency in English AND another language by meeting the criteria described below.

Both native and non-native speakers of English must provide comparable evidence of English language proficiency. The language performance should be demonstrated in both social and academic use of the language, in all modes of communication.

To be eligible to receive the Seal of Biliteracy, the two academic requirements below must be met:

1. Student must complete all English language arts requirements for graduation.
2. Student must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English in grades 10, 11, or 12 at a level comparable to "Intermediate Mid" on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines as demonstrated through one of the following methods listed in the Assessment of Evidence Table.

Assessment	Minimum Score
Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) Measure	I-3 in all four domains
Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or OPIc and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT)	Intermediate Mid
International Baccalaureate (IB) World Language Exam (available only to students currently enrolled in IB programs)	4 or higher
Advanced Placement (AP) World Language Exam	3
ASL Proficiency Interview	3
Sign Language Proficiency	Intermediate
Avant STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency)	Intermediate Mid
ALIRA Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment	I-3
DELE (Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language)	B1
DELFL (Diplomas of French as a Foreign Language)	B1

## Funding

Whenever possible, the District may utilize a variety of funding sources to support the costs of language testing, including grants and local district funding.

## Unique Requirements for Low Incidence or Classical Languages

Due to unique characteristics of certain languages, special allowances may need to be made. In cases where language assessments across all four domains of communication may not be appropriate or available, the District will substitute a different assessment to meet the requirements of the Seal of Biliteracy. Students seeking the Seal of Biliteracy through languages not characterized by the use of listening, speaking, reading, or for which there is not a writing system, will be permitted to demonstrate the expected level of proficiency on an assessment of the modalities that characterize communication in that language.

**Equitable Access**

All students, including those with an exceptionality or disability, shall have the opportunity to demonstrate their biliteracy. Accommodations shall be provided to students per their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan for all assessments.

**District Process to Award the Seal of Biliteracy and Transcripts**

1. The Seal of Biliteracy is to be added to the student's transcript and diploma for the specific language(s). The District shall document on the high school transcript that a student has earned the seal.
2. The Seal of Biliteracy shall be awarded by high school graduation. The Districts shall determine a method for recording the name and identification of students who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy.