

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Date:** October 25, 2013
- To:** Area Superintendents, Principals, Vice Principals, Head Counselors, Division and Department Heads, World Language Teachers 9-12 Grade
- Subject:** SEAL OF BILITERACY AWARD FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN SPRING/SUMMER OF 2014
- Departments and/or Persons Concerned:** Area Superintendents, Principals, Vice Principals, Head Counselors, Division and Department Heads, World Language Teachers 9-12 Grade, Students in World Language Courses 9-12 Grade
- Due Date:** Submit all verification documents to the Office of Language Acquisition by Friday, April 25, 2014
- Reference:**
1. Resolution establishing the SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy for Eligible 12th Grade Seniors, approved May 10, 2011
 2. AB 815 Brownley, State Seal of Biliteracy, approved October 8, 2011
- Action Requested:**
1. Ensure all students currently enrolled in World Language Courses in grade 9–12 receive the information on the Seal of Biliteracy.
 2. Ensure that all 12th grade students currently enrolled in World Language courses receive the application form for the Seal of Biliteracy.
 3. Ensure that school counselors work with students to review the application and determine eligibility for receiving the Seal of Biliteracy Award.
- Attachments:**
- A. Application for Seniors to Receive the Seal of Biliteracy Upon Graduation, Spring/Summer 2014
 - B. Frequently Asked Questions

Brief Explanation:

The District Seal of Biliteracy is an award granted to high school seniors upon graduation certifying attainment of mastery in two or more languages. The Seal of Biliteracy is directly linked to the Language Learning Policy adopted by the San Diego Unified School District Board of Trustees in August of 2009, which recognizes that “in addition to being academically prepared and fully proficient in English, all students benefit from being proficient in another language”. In addition, attainment of the Seal of Biliteracy by graduating seniors clearly advances tenets of

the District's Vision 2020 plan for "preparing our students for the competitive global economy they will face in the years ahead" and the Vision 2020 goal to ensure that "students from all backgrounds in our district develop the ability to communicate in two languages." Qualifying students graduating in the spring/summer of 2014 will receive the District Seal of Biliteracy.

The State Seal of Biliteracy, AB 815, was signed by the governor and enacted into the California Education Code on October 8, 2011. As more information becomes available from the California Department of Education, revisions and alignment to the district criteria for the Seal of Biliteracy may be warranted.

Eligibility Criteria:

The student application form explains the specific criteria that must be met and documented in order for students to fulfill the requirements for the Seal of Biliteracy.

Recognizing that unique situations may arise with regard to student eligibility, please refer to Attachment 2, **Frequently Asked Questions**. For additional information or questions, contact Mary Waldron or Michael McVeigh in the Office of Language Acquisition, (619) 725-7264.

Mary Waldron
Director
Office of Language Acquisition

APPROVED:



Teresa Walter
Executive Director
Office of Teaching and Learning
TW:tc

Attachments (2)

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Application for Seniors to Receive the Seal Of Biliteracy Upon Graduation, Spring 2014
Due Date: Friday, April 25, 2014**

Student Name: _____ Student I.D. _____

School: _____

Counselor: _____

**I wish to receive the Seal of Biliteracy Recognition on my high school diploma.
I am proficient in English and the following language(s):** _____

I have met the following eligibility requirements:

_____ **Successful completion of all San Diego Unified high school graduation requirements, including:**

- Demonstrate Proficiency in English as measured through the CAHSEE, or, the California Standards Test/English Language Arts (CST/ELA) administered at the senior high level (grades 9-11).
- *Counselor will attach a copy of the student's current transcript.*

AND **ONE** of the following World Language requirements:

_____ **OPTION 1: Successful completion of three to four years of instruction in the same world language, with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher in all world language course work. The course work must include one of the following:**

- An Honors 7-8 course with a score of **Proficient** or higher, as determined by district developed end of course exam.
- An upper level **IB** course with a score of 4 or higher, as determined by IB testing agency (an upper level IB course can be either an IBSL or an IBHL).
- *Verified by copy of current transcript.*

_____ **OPTION 2: A score of "3" or higher on the Advanced Placement (AP) exam for world language.**

- The AP exam should be taken prior to 12th grade.
- NOTE: *Students who choose to take an AP course BUT choose not to take the AP exam, will need to pass the Honors 7-8 exam with a score of Proficient or higher.*
- *Verified by notification letter from the College Board.*

_____ **OPTION 3: A passing score (varies by language) on the SAT II World Language Subject Test.**

- *Verified by notification letter from the College Board.*

_____ **OPTION 4: A passing score on the district developed assessment of proficiency in a Language Other than English.**

- *Verified by a signed copy of the district's 'Language Other Than English Certification' form.*

**Please return this application AND all verification documents to _____,
at your school, by April 25, 2014.**

OFFICE USE ONLY

The candidate has:

_____ Verified successful completion of all SDUSD high school graduation requirements, including proficiency in English on CAHSEE or CST, AND, one of the above world language requirements.

_____ Verified an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher in all world language courses.

Student Signature: _____

Counselor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please forward to Office of Language Acquisition, Ed Center, Room 2008

Attention: Michael McVeigh, World Language Resource Teacher

_____ Approved for the Seal of Biliteracy Award

_____ Not approved due to the following: _____

Office of Language Acquisition, documentation review and verified by:

Date: _____

Seal of Biliteracy Award Frequently Asked Questions

What is the “Seal of Biliteracy”?

- Students will have a gold embossed sticker with the Seal of Biliteracy insignia affixed to their diploma.

Does the recognition appear on the transcript?

- Yes, the Seal of Biliteracy is noted on the student’s transcript in the section titled

Is there a cost?

- There is no cost incurred by students for the Seal of Biliteracy Award.

Does a student’s GPA matter?

- Students must maintain a minimum overall grade point average of 2.0 in order to graduate. Additionally, the student’s cumulative grade point average in world languages must be 3.0 or higher. (Reference: AB 815, Article 6, section 1B)

Do English learners need to be re-designated as English proficient speakers?

- Yes, evidence of English language proficiency is one of the requirements. Students must attain the early advanced proficiency level on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). Schools must make every effort to ensure that the re-designation process is completed before the April 25, 2014 deadline. (Reference AB 815, Article 6, section 1D.b)

If students choose to meet one of the eligibility requirements by taking an AP, SAT, or IB exam, when should these exams be taken?

- Students ideally will meet these options by the end of their junior year.
- *Students taking an AP exam in the spring of their senior year may come to the Office of Language Acquisition with a copy of the exam results and have the Seal of Biliteracy placed on their diploma if all requirements have been met.*

What about students who take an AP world language course but choose not to take the AP exam?

Students who choose to take an AP course BUT choose not to take the AP exam, will need to pass the Honors 7-8 exam with a score of Proficient or higher.

This requirement does not apply to students who are not candidates for the Seal of Biliteracy.

What about students who come to school proficient in a language other than English?

- Interested candidates must meet the eligibility requirement for demonstrating proficiency in English.
- The Office of Language Acquisition works with the district's Research and Accountability office to generate a list of students who indicate a home language other than English. We then work with personnel at the school site to certify proficiency in a language other than English through one of the options approved by the UC/CSU system.
- Students have the option of enrolling in a district world language course.

Does a student's current world language teacher need to approve the application?

- The student's world language teacher does not need to approve the application. However, it is expected that the world language teachers will monitor students' progress and provide appropriate supports and interventions to ensure that the student maintains an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher in world language coursework.

What about summer graduates?

- Summer graduates who fulfill the Seal of Biliteracy requirements and submit the application by April 25, 2014 are eligible to receive this award, pending summer school grade results.

What about students who choose to take world language courses through the district accredited Independent World Language Schools (IWLS)?

- Students follow existing district procedures to ensure that the courses are submitted and posted on high school transcripts.
- Students enrolled in an IWLS offering AP courses should follow Option 2.

If you have additional questions or need additional information, please contact:
Michael McVeigh, World Language Resource Teacher: mmcveigh@sandi.net