



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

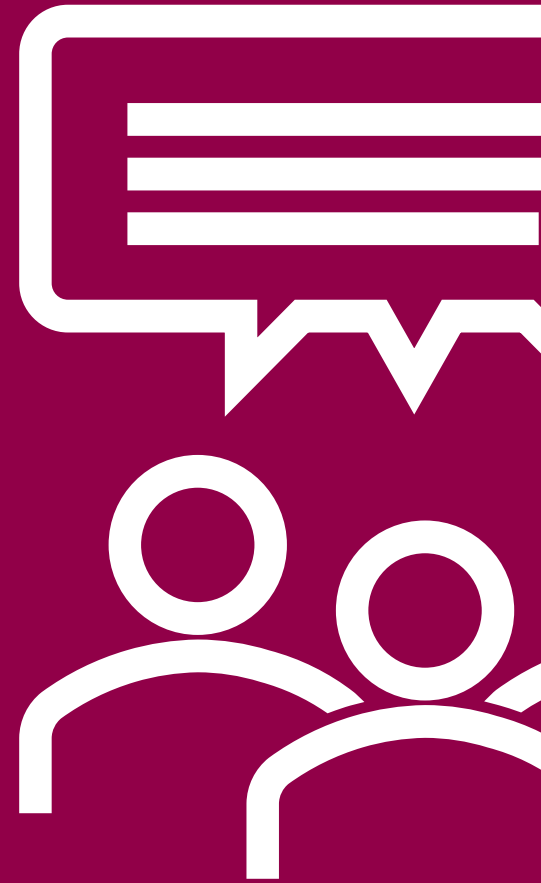
Arizona Diploma Seal of Biliteracy



Updated 08/2023

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

- The Arizona Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school/district in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.
- Created through the State Board of Education [SB 1239](#)
- The Seal of Biliteracy builds upon strong research about the benefits of mastery of two or more languages for individual students, and the increasing awareness of the need in our communities, state, nation, and world for people with biliteracy and cross-cultural skills. It will benefit learners in the labor market and the global society while strengthening intergroup relationships and honoring the multiple cultures and languages in a community ([SealofBiliteracy.org](#)).



Who can participate?

- The Seal of Biliteracy is available to any high school student attending a public district, school, or charter.
- Districts/schools must designate one individual to serve as the Coordinator of the Program.



How do schools participate?

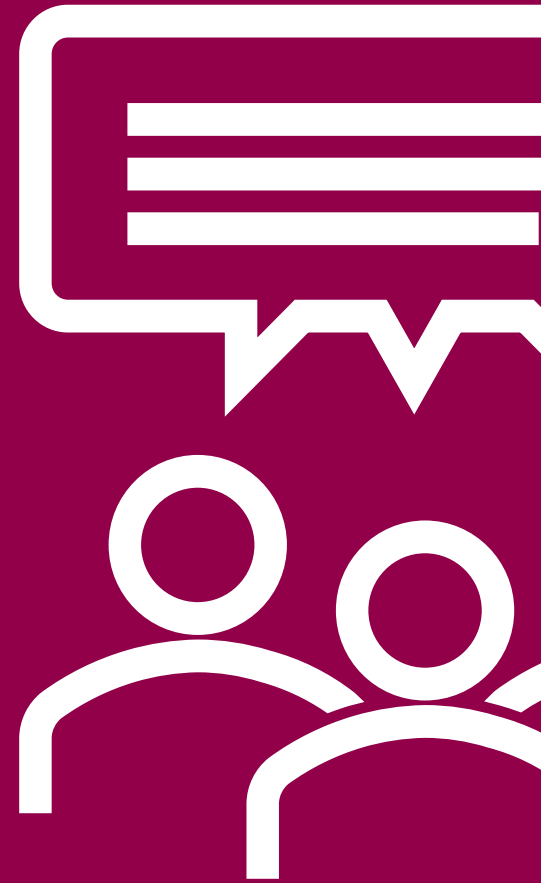
- The Program Coordinator must complete the Intent to Participate form at the beginning of each school year.
- Districts/schools provide information to educators, parents, and students.
- The Program Coordinator must complete the Reporting Form no later than 90 days after the school year.



How do students earn the Seal of Biliteracy?

Students must complete the following requirements to earn the Seal of Biliteracy:

- Complete all required *English Language Arts* courses with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 out of 4.0
- Pass an examination in English Language Arts.
 - If the student has a primary language other than English, obtains a score of proficient or higher based on the English language proficiency standards, pursuant to section 15-756.
- Demonstrates proficiency in one or more languages other than English by meeting the requirements adopted by ADE.



Frequently Asked Questions for District Leaders:

1. Our students are taking exams that do not return scores until the summer. How do we know who to give the seal to?

It is suggested that you mark in some way that the student is a Candidate for the Seal of Biliteracy. We can honor students as candidates at honors ceremonies as well. When scores are returned, notify the students and update transcripts.

2. What can my students do for the Alternate Method?

The Arizona Department of Education will only consider Alternate Methods if a) there is no proficiency test for the language or b) the cost of the test is a financial burden on districts/students.

3. Can students test and meet the requirements in any grade 9-12?

Proficiency must be proven during grades 9-12 and preferably students are tested for proficiency in 11 or 12 grade. But ultimately it is up to the district and who their students are.



How are students assessed?

Approved assessments are listed on the [Seal of Biliteracy webpage](#).

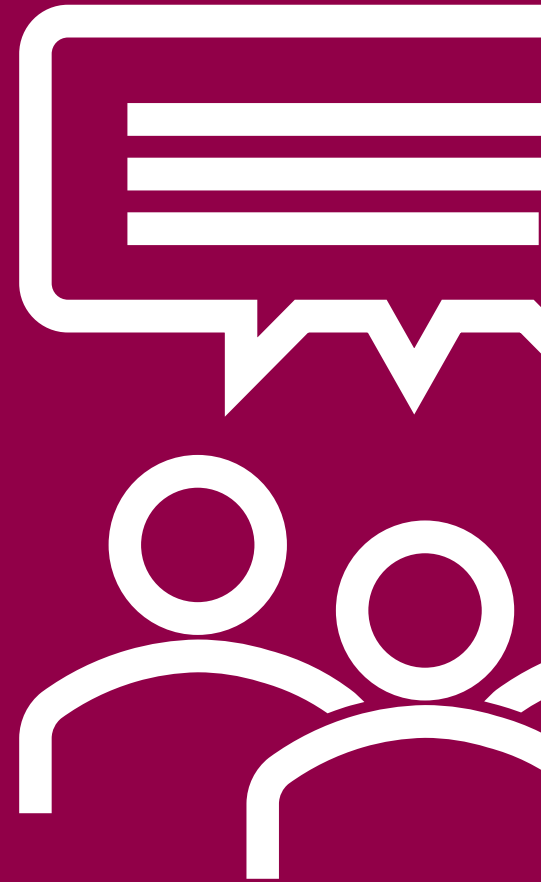
If you have an assessment that is not on the list, please email K12Standards@azed.gov to be presented to the Arizona State Board for approval.



What are the program outcomes?

- The Seal of Biliteracy is placed on the student's diploma and noted on their transcript.
- School districts or charters may choose to honor students in other ways such as a cord, certificate, medal, ceremony, banner, etc.
- Students who complete the Seal of Biliteracy count towards a school's [A-F Report Card](#).

NOTE: The Arizona Department of Education only supplies the official seals for student diplomas.





ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

THANK YOU

Arizona Department of Education

Academic Standards

K12Standards@azed.gov

602-364-2055