

2019 Seal of Biliteracy Report

On May 12, 2016 SB1239 was signed into law establishing the State Seal of Biliteracy Program. This program recognizes high school students who achieve proficiency in English and at least one additional language. The seal is placed on the student's diploma and noted on the transcript. Specific requirements are listed in ARS 15-258.

During the 2018-2019 school year, 25 LEAs participated in the Seal of Biliteracy Program. This number included 19 school districts and 6 charter schools. Four counties were represented- Coconino, Maricopa, Navajo, and Pima. The Cambridge AS Spanish Exam was added to the list of assessments approved by the State Board of Education and an American Sign Language Portfolio Criteria was created and used by Chandler Unified School District.

A total of 1555 seals were awarded to graduating seniors compared to 875 for the 2018 graduating class. Of those 1555 students, 450 students were designated as an English Language Learner at some point during their K-12 academic journey compared to 175 for the 2018 graduating class.

Students earned seals in 12 different languages. These languages were:

- Spanish- 1335 seals awarded
- French- 117 seals awarded
- Navajo- 3 seals awarded
- Mandarin- 29 seals awarded
- German- 20 seals awarded
- ASL- 11 seals awarded
- Japanese- 4 seals awarded
- Arabic- 2 seals awarded
- Chinese- 2 seals awarded
- Korean- 1 seal awarded
- Arabic- 1 seal awarded
- Russian- 1 seal awarded
- Italian- 1 seal awarded

These numbers are an increase in both total number of seals earned and number of languages from the class of 2017. In 2017, 316 students earned the seal in 4 languages and in 2018 875 students earned the seal in 9 languages. In 2019 1555 students earned the seal in 12 languages.