

2021 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 2020-2021 school year, 22 LEAs participated in the Seal of Biliteracy Program. This number included 18 school districts and 4 charter schools. Three counties were represented- Coconino, Maricopa, and Pima. The Avant WordSpeak, Alta, and Ellinomatheia assessments were added to the approved assessment list to offer opportunities to test less commonly studied languages and Modern Greek language.

A total of 1167 seals were awarded to graduating seniors compared to 1243 for the 2020 graduating class. Of those 1167 students, 387 students were designated as an English Language Learner at some point during their K-12 academic journey compared to for the 2019 graduating class. 242 students attended Title 1 schools. It is anticipated numbers are still lagging due to the pandemic and classroom interruptions and numbers will continue to increase for school year 2021-2022

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

- Spanish- 995 seals awarded
- French- 84 seals awarded
- Mandarin- 30 seals awarded
- ASL- 21 seals awarded
- German- 17 seals awarded
- Japanese- 4 seals awarded
- Arabic- 3 seals awarded
- Polish- 3 seals awarded
- Korean- 1 seal awarded
- Portuguese- 1 seal awarded
- Russian- 1 seal awarded
- Somali- 1 seal awarded

This is the first-year seals were awarded in Polish, Portuguese, and Somali

The following assessments were used to measure proficiency in the target language:

- AAPPL
- STAMP
- Advance Placement

- IB
- Portfolio

The following LEAs participated in the program and granted seals:

- Amphitheater Unified School District
- Catalina Foothills High School District
- Cave Creek Unified School District
- Chandler Unified School District
- Crestview College Prep
- Deer Valley Unified School District
- Desert Heights Prep
- Dysart Unified School District
- Flagstaff Unified School District
- Glendale Union High School District
- Gilbert Public Schools
- Highland Prep
- Higley Unified School District
- Madison Highland Prep
- Mesa Public Schools
- Paradise Valley Unified SD
- Peoria Unified SD
- Phoenix Union High School District
- Scottsdale Unified School District
- Tempe Union High School District
- Tucson Unified School District
- Vail Unified School District