

Heritage Languages in Maryland

Nearly 17% of Maryland's students speak a language other than English at home. Some of these students take weekend classes in their heritage language for many years. These students will also be eligible to be recognized for their language proficiency with a Seal of Bilingualism in their heritage language. They must meet the same eligibility requirements listed in this brochure.

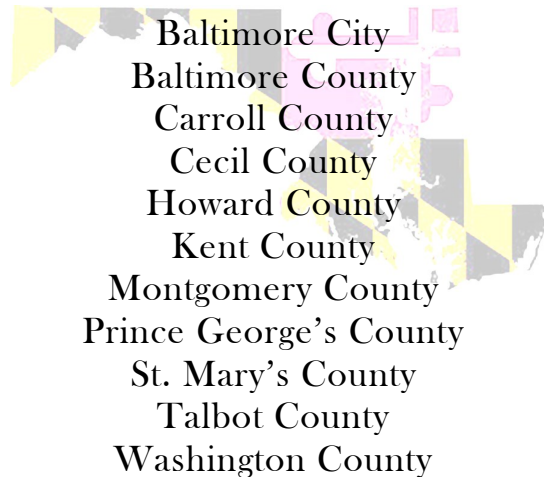


Cost

There is no cost to the student to apply for the voluntary Seal of Bilingualism. However, students are responsible for any assessment fees not covered by their school or school system.

The Maryland Seal of Bilingualism Program is voluntary. However if a school system elects to participate, all schools in the school system must participate.

Participating School Systems in 2017-18:



For more information, contact your school system's world language office or visit:

bit.ly/mdsb17

or contact:

Bonnie Pechulis

Maryland State Department of Education



The Maryland Seal of Bilingualism for High School Students



What is a Seal of Bilingualism?



A Seal of Bilingualism is a state award that recognizes a student's

high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages other than English. It is awarded to eligible high school students by participating public school systems in Maryland.

Began in California in 2011, the Seal of Bilingualism is now offered in 28 states and the District of Columbia. Maryland's Seal of Bilingualism Bill was signed into law in 2016.

Why is Maryland Awarding a Seal of Bilingualism?

High school graduates who can function in two or more languages are equipped with the knowledge and skills to participate successfully in college, careers, and a diverse 21st century society.

The purpose of the Seal of Bilingualism is to:

- ◆ Recognize the value of language learning in public schools.
- ◆ Encourage students to attain high proficiency levels in one or more languages in addition to English.
- ◆ Affirm native or heritage languages.
- ◆ Provide employers with a method of identifying individuals with language and bilingual skills.
- ◆ Prepare students with the critical skills necessary to function in a global society.
- ◆ Strengthen cross-cultural communication, affirm the value of diversity and honor the multiple cultures and languages in our communities.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Seal of Bilingualism, a student must fulfill the following requirements:

- ◆ Pass the Maryland High School Assessment in English 10.
- ◆ Score Intermediate High Proficiency or equivalent on an approved world language assessment. Below is a partial list of assessments and their qualifying scores.

Assessment	Minimum Qualifying Score
Advanced Placement	4
International Baccalaureate	6 (Standard)
ACTFL Assessments: (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)	Intermediate High

For a complete list of approved assessments, please visit:

bit.ly/mdsb17

