



THE MARYLAND SEAL OF BILITERACY

PURPOSE AND ELIGIBILITY



Purpose

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 Maryland State Seal of Biliteracy is established to recognize and reward excellence in language learning as measured by rigorous proficiency assessments.

The purpose of the State Seal of Biliteracy 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 biliteracy skills.
- Provide universities with an additional method to recognize applicants seeking admission/placement.
- 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 of our communities.

Eligibility Criteria

To receive a Maryland Seal of Biliteracy, a student must:

1. Satisfy the English graduation requirement (**SEE NOTE BELOW**); **AND**
2. Demonstrate Intermediate High proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a language other than English, as measured by assessments that are aligned to ACTFL (The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) proficiency guidelines. These assessments include:
 - OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview)/ OPIc (Oral Proficiency Interview-Computer) **AND** the WPT (Writing Proficiency Test).
 - AAPPL (ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages) with a minimum score of I-5.
 - Avant STAMP (Standards Based Measurement of Proficiency) with a minimum score of 6.
 - ALIRA (ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment) with a minimum score of I-4.
 - AP (Advanced Placement) with a minimum score of 4.
 - IB (International Baccalaureate) with a minimum score of 5 (Higher Level) or 6 (Standard Level).
 - American Sign Language assessments:
 - ASLPI (American Sign Language Proficiency Interview) with a minimum score of 3+; **OR**
 - SLPI (Sign Language Proficiency Interview) with a minimum score of Advanced Plus.
 - DELE, DELF and DSD (Common European Framework assessments) with a minimum score of B1.
 - Goethe-Zertifikat with a minimum score of B1.
 - NEWL (National Examinations in World Languages) with a minimum score of 4.

NOTE: Please see [this memo](#) regarding the English and Bridge Project requirement that applies to 2020 graduates.

Additional assessments continue to be approved. For the current list of approved assessments, please visit the [Maryland Seal of Biliteracy website](#).