

# Illinois State Board of Education

## Invest in Biliteracy: How the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy Earns College Credit

COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING – TINLEY PARK – JULY 13, 2023

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Glenbrook High School District 225

Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community

# Agenda

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Introduction

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Definition / Explanation of Program

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District Example

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Details, Assessments, Timelines

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Q & A

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# What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The concept of the Seal of Biliteracy was started by Californians Together in 2008 in an effort to recognize the diverse language and cultural backgrounds of students. Now, 49 states and the District of Columbia have implemented state Seals of Biliteracy.

The Seal is an award given by a school or school district in recognition of students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English **and** an additional language by high school graduation.

It is tangible proof of language proficiency beyond just seeing a course on a transcript.

- ❖ Can be earned in more than one language
- ❖ Physical seal and designation on student's diploma and transcript
- ❖ **Good for college credit at all public colleges and universities in Illinois**



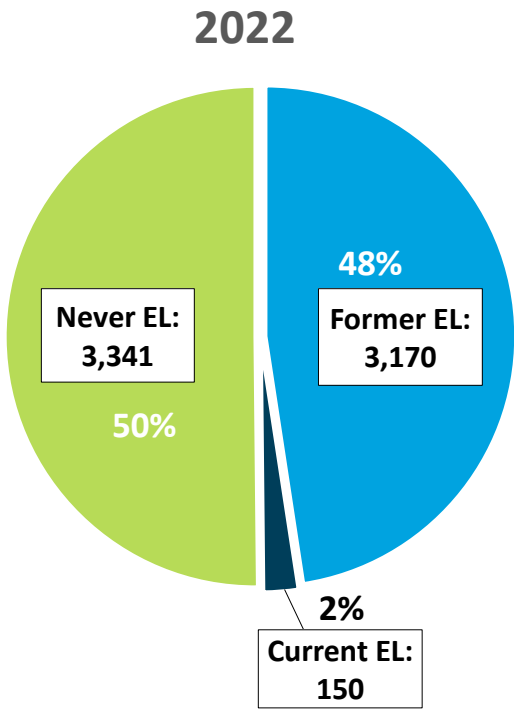
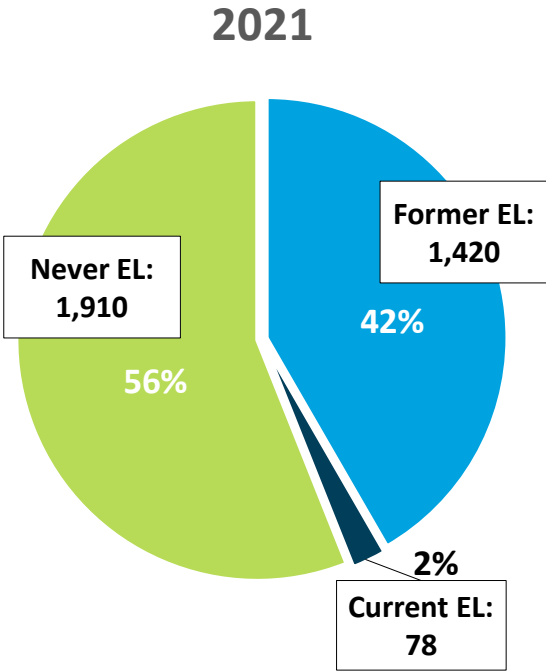
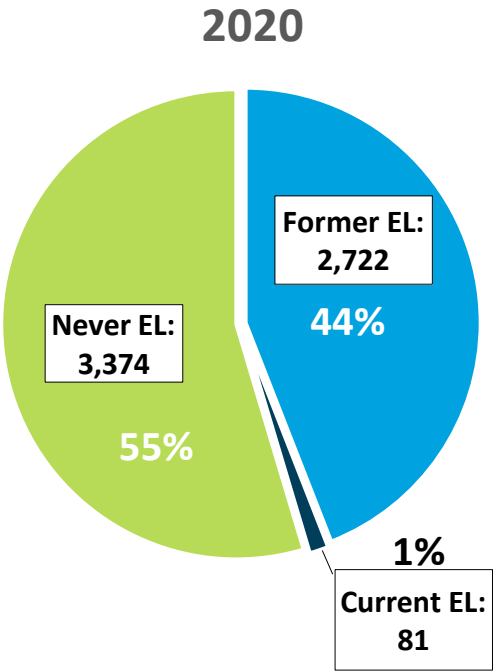
# Seal candidates in YOUR schools...

- Multilingual students, English Learners\*
- Students who attend Ethnic language schools
- World Language students (how early do you start WL programming?)
- Refugees, immigrants
  - ★ This is a GRADUATION award, but language development occurs before 12th grade!
  - ★ Can qualify with any scores or activities during grades 9-12



# Award trends and data: Seal of Biliteracy

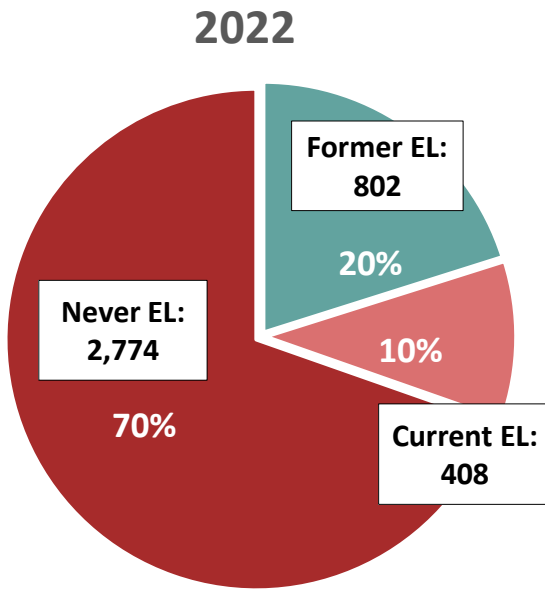
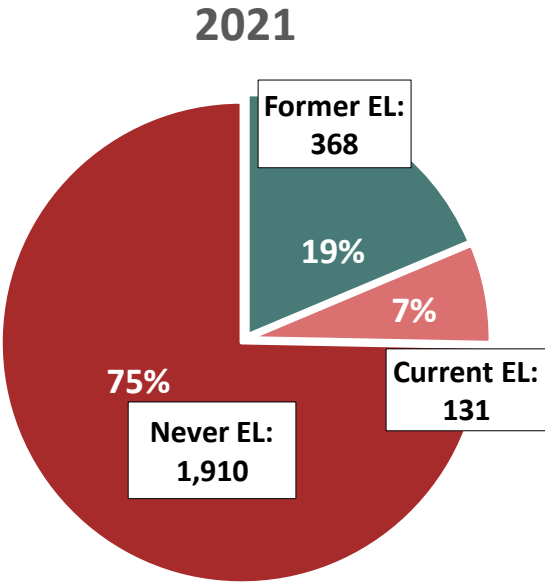
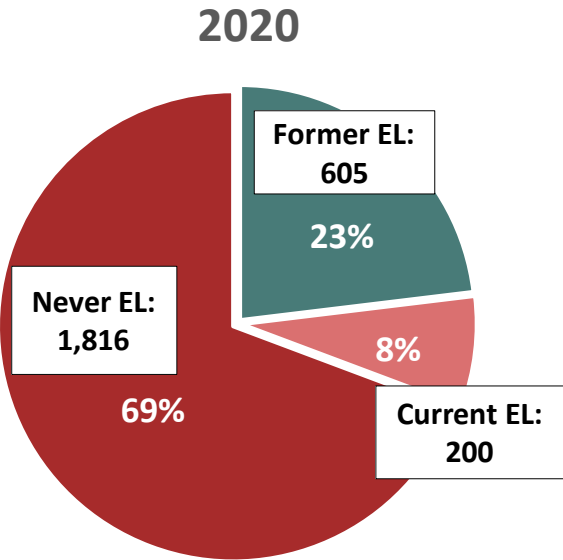
public school\*



\*Non-public schools can also award the seal of biliteracy

# Award trends and data: Commendation toward Biliteracy

*public school\**



*\*Non-public schools can also award the seal of biliteracy*

# How does a student get the Seal?



## Answer for students:

*Your school awards the Seal of Biliteracy at graduation. The physical seal goes on your diploma and a note is made on your transcript.*

*During grades 9-12, demonstrate your proficiency in two languages. There are several methods to do so in English and Language #2*

- Common methods for English proficiency: SAT, ACT, AP test, dual credit class, **ACCESS for ELs** (there's more!)
- Common methods for additional language: AP test, AAPPL or STAMP proficiency tests (there's more!)

*Ask your teachers, counselors, principals for more info! Tell them to look it up on the ISBE website!*

## Answer for districts:

1. Establish culture of multilingualism and global competence in your schools!
2. Complete an **application** every year, before October 1. This is so you can submit award data (every year) after students graduate.
  - Public: Application and reporting in SIS (RCDT admin)
  - Non-public: email application and reporting docs (found on ISBE website) to [biliteracy@isbe.net](mailto:biliteracy@isbe.net)
3. **PUBLICIZE** – it's a requirement *and* you want to include as many students as possible.  
*One-pagers on our website*
4. Look into appropriate assessments for **your groups** of students. Keep all grades (9-12) in mind – scores from any time in high school can be used for the Seal.
5. CELEBRATE SUCCESSES in any way your school wants to!  
*Yard signs, medals, certificates, local news paper, assembly...*
6. Upon graduation, place seal on **diploma** and note on the student's official **transcript**.
7. **Upload** award results before Sept 15 of the next school year.

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# May 3, 2022 - 133 Seals and Commendations Earned by the class of 2022



Only 1 student was still  
designated EL at the ceremony



## College Credits for Seal of Biliteracy at Top 5 Colleges Attended by WAHS Graduates

	Seal of Biliteracy	Savings of up to...
Waubonsee Community College	Seal: 12 credits	\$2000
Aurora University	8 credits	\$4,675
Northern Illinois University	Seal: 12 credits Commendation: 9 credits	\$4,800
U of I @ Urbana	8 credits	\$4,000
Illinois State	4 credits	\$4,125

# 15 Credits



# Intermediate Low Sample - STAMP

## Minimum for a Commendation

<p>Level 4 Intermediate- Low</p>	<p>At this level, I can create simple sentences with some added detail; such sentences help create VARIETY. At the Intermediate Low level, simple sentences are enhanced by use of prepositional phrases, helping verb usage, as well as some adverbs and a variety of adjectives. I generally create independent sentences (ideas) that can be moved around without affecting the overall meaning of the response. There are still a number of errors in my response, but I have fairly good control of more basic sentences. I am feeling more confident in using different structures and expanding vocabulary and taking more risks with my responses.</p>	<p>Some kids play games or hopskotch with other kids. Some kids stay at home and watch TV or play video games in family room. Lots of kids play Video games with friends, Kids play sports after scholl. Kids watch cartoons on saturday.</p>
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[Click Here for Sample Tests](#)

[Click Here for Spanish Writing Samples](#)

# Intermediate High Sample - STAMP

## Minimum for a Seal

<p>Level 6 Intermediate-High</p>	<p>At this level, I have good control of the language and feel quite confident about an increasing range of topics. There are still some occasional errors in my language production, but that does not hinder my ability to communicate what I need to share. I can use circumlocution to explain or describe things for which I do not know specific vocabulary or structures. I can understand and use different time frames and am just beginning to develop the ability to switch most time frames with accuracy. I can use transition words and concepts with some ease. My language has a more natural flow, but I still may have some unnatural pauses or hesitations.</p>	<p>One of the best experiences that I have had so far in my life was my trip to France for the student exchange. It has been memorable to see students whose way of life was different from Americans. During the trip, we visited multiple historical sites and museums and restaurants and city shops. The most amazing part was being with a exchange student at their house and living the life they would. Food is a big part of the trip to France, but there was so much more as well. I still think of the fact that our home country is often seen as the one and only. However, the trip to a European country where everything is different has proved people wrong. I know this experience will be one that I will remember forever.</p>
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[Click Here for Sample Tests](#)

[Click Here for Spanish Writing Samples](#)

# What barriers exist for MLs in earning a Seal or Commendation?

Assumption the following had adequate knowledge about the Seal of Biliteracy

- Myself
- District Administrators
- Building Administrators
- Counselors
- EL/ML Teachers
- Higher Education Advisors



# Three Barriers to Multilingual Learners Participating in Seal of Biliteracy Testing

- Personalized information about the post-secondary benefits of earning a biliteracy recognition (college credits, tuition saved, job opportunities)
- Scheduling testing outside of the school day
- Cost of Exam - AAPPL \$24 - ALTA \$150+
- \*SD129 Low-income students can apply for a fee waiver but must go through the application process
- Difficulty in locating information about the Seal of Biliteracy reciprocity at higher education institutions



# Friday, May 13, 2022

## ACCESS 2022 Preliminary Scores Received

- Population Data
  - 90 senior coded as EL on ACCESS 2022 score reporting
  - 36 seniors scored a 3.5 or higher on ACCESS 2.0 Literacy -
- 1 already earned a Seal of Biliteracy in Arabic



**\$600**





# Efficacy Building Ingredients for Conversations

- **Self-efficacy** is our belief in our ability to achieve in the future based on experiences drawn from 4 sources (Bandura, 1997)
- **Mastery Experience**
  - You've already achieved (English score)
  - You are well positioned to score well in additional language
- **Verbal Persuasion**
  - Highlight achievement
  - Explain significance of results and potential for saving time and money
  - Build confidence in home experiences with additional language as valuable
  - Activate parents to encourage students
    - Celebrate/validate their background and experience raising bilingual students

[More on Self-Efficacy](#)

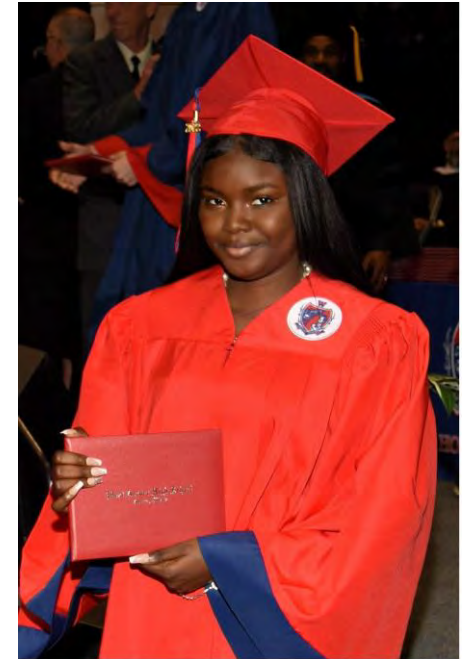
[Student Efficacy Building Script](#)

[Parent Efficacy Building Script](#)

At the end of 2022, 156 total awards were given to West HS seniors (79 Seals & 77 Commendations)

17.3% increase  
in Biliteracy  
Distinctions  
Earned by the  
Class of 2022

8 students  
earned TWO  
seals (proficient  
in 3 languages)



6 Languages Represented:  
Arabic, French, Spanish, Romanian,  
**Swahili, and Yoruba**



# 2023 Results

- **57.9%** increase in Biliteracy Distinctions (**133** at 2022 Seal of Biliteracy ceremony to **210** in May 2023)
- **11** languages were represented in the class of 2023 including Spanish, French, Romanian, Swahili, Serbian, Mongolian, Yoruba, Bosnian, Farsi, Arabic, and Albanian.
- **260** students in the class of 2024 are partially qualified for Biliteracy Distinctions; **40** students are fully qualified for a Biliteracy distinction in the class of 2024.
- **113 students** in the class of 2025, and **65 students** in the class of 2026.
- Students who earn a Seal of Biliteracy earn on average **12 credit hours** from public colleges and universities. Students with a Commendation toward Biliteracy qualify for up to **9 credits** at public colleges and universities in IL.



# 2023 Results



# Resources

- [SD129 Seal of Biliteracy Student Presentation](#)
- [SD129 Seal of Biliteracy Presentation en Español](#)
- [STAMP English Writing Samples](#)
- [STAMP Spanish Writing Samples](#)
- [STAMP Sample Proficiency Tests](#)
- [ALTA Exam Languages](#)



# Funding option:

## **Title IV – A:**

Supplemental assessments that qualify students for the State Seal of Biliteracy are allowable under Title IV-A.

Note: the Title IV-A grant has specific funding requirements (percentages of funding spent in 3 areas). The assessment would fall under **Well-Rounded education** area.



## Course Credit for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy at Public Colleges and Universities in Illinois

Per Illinois state [statute](#), "Each public community college and public university in this State shall establish criteria to translate a State Seal of Biliteracy into course credit based on foreign language course equivalencies identified by the community college's or university's faculty and staff and, upon request from an enrolled student, the community college or university shall award foreign language course credit to a student who has received a State Seal of Biliteracy. Students enrolled in a public community college or public university who have received a State Seal of Biliteracy must request course credit for their seal within 3 academic years after graduating from high school."

While the legislation requires that schools translate the Seal into course credit, many schools also use the Seal as a placement tool or to satisfy certain graduation requirements. It is the student's responsibility to seek these credits and approvals in a timely manner at the institution of higher education.

The following information was gathered from individual college and university websites and is subject to change as unique entities update their websites. If you encounter a broken link or incorrect information, please send an email to [biliteracy@isbe.net](mailto:biliteracy@isbe.net).

Chicago State University	A student who has received the State Seal of Biliteracy will be awarded a total of 6 credits (lower division). This is the equivalent of first semester (3 credits) and second semester (3 credits) of language study at CSU. When the seal is granted in a language not offered at Chicago State University, 6 credit hours of lower division foreign language elective will be awarded.	Published yearly in the CSU course catalog PDF
Eastern Illinois University	A student who has received the State Seal of Biliteracy will receive a total of 8 credits (lower division). This is the equivalent of first semester (4 credits) and second semester (4 credits) of language study at EIU.	<a href="#">Registrar: Biliteracy</a>
Governors State University	Students who present appropriate documentation of the Seal to their advisor within three years of high school graduation will be awarded six hours of foreign language credit.	<a href="#">Admission Information</a>
Illinois State University	Illinois State University accepts the State Seal of Biliteracy from any state as equivalent to two semesters (8 credits) of language study (LAN 111-112) in languages offered at the University. If the seal is granted in a language not offered at Illinois State University, eight credit hours of lower division foreign language will be awarded.	<a href="#">Office of the Registrar</a>
	If you are earning a B.S. in the College of Arts and Sciences, then your language requirement is to complete a world languages class at the level of 112 or higher, or completion of Level III of one high school world language or earning the Seal of Biliteracy.	<a href="#">Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures</a>
Northeastern Illinois University	Students who receive the State Seal of Biliteracy will receive a total of 6 credits (lower division) of language study at Northeastern.	<a href="#">Transfer Center</a>

Updated July 2023

### MULTILINGUAL

## ILLINOIS STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY

A public school district or nonpublic school may establish the State Seal of Biliteracy program to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and in one or more other foreign, or world, languages. This recognition must be designated on a student's transcript and high school diploma with a receipt of the State Seal of Biliteracy, provided that all conditions and requirements for the program have been met.

Nonpublic Schools Only: Resources for Program Implementation

Public Districts Only: Resources for Program Implementation

Language Assessments

Rules and Regulations

Seal and Commendation Data

Resources

### College Credit for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

- For Administrators, Teachers and Schools: Seal of Biliteracy At-a-Glance 📄
- For Parents and Guardians: Seal of Biliteracy At-a-Glance 📄
- For Students: Seal of Biliteracy At-a-Glance 📄
- FAQ for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy 📄
- Benefits of Receiving the Seal of Biliteracy 📄
- Seal of Biliteracy National Program
- Center for Applied Linguistics Foreign Language Assessment Directory
- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
- Education Week Blog: How the State Seal of Biliteracy is a Game Changer

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/College-Credit-Placement-Seal.pdf>



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# The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

## State Seal of Biliteracy



This is a program to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and in one or more other world languages. This recognition is designated on a student's transcript and high school diploma.

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

#### English Proficiency (choose one)

1. ACCESS for ELLs: 4.8 composite
2. AP English Language and Composition exam: 4
3. ELA Dual Credit course
4. STAMPS 4S: Intermediate High
5. ACT: College ready benchmark (English) or 21 composite
6. AAPPL: 1-5 (Intermediate High)(form B)
7. SAT: 480 ELA score
8. TOEFL: 85
9. TOEIC: 550

★ "At a Glance" information like this is available on ISBE's seal of Biliteracy webpage

#### World Language Proficiency (choose one)

1. AP Language and Culture exam: 4
2. STAMP 4S: Intermediate High
3. AAPPL form B: 1-5 (Intermediate High)
4. ACTFL OPI + LPT + WPT + RPT: Intermediate High
5. ALTA Speaking/Listening + Reading + Writing: 6 (Intermediate High)
6. NEWL: Intermediate High

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All ISBE-approved tests require students to achieve [Intermediate High](#) (or equivalent) in **all four** domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

More methods for demonstrating proficiency and other exams that are specific to certain languages can be found on our website and on our list of [approved assessments](#).



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Education



# Key Dates 2023-2024

Date	Activity
October 1, 2023	Application due in SIS. Must first enter at least one 11th-grade and one 12th- grade student as enrolled in SIS to access application.
No later than 45 days prior to awarding the Seal/Commendation	<b>Final</b> window to apply to the program.
September 15, 2024	SY 2023-24 final award data due in SIS.



# Thank you!

## Email

[biliteracy@isbe.net](mailto:biliteracy@isbe.net)  
[kskinner@isbe.net](mailto:kskinner@isbe.net)

Questions, feedback,  
IDEAS!

[CAAnderson1@glenbrook225.org](mailto:CAAnderson1@glenbrook225.org)

Twitter: @canders\_

## Call

217-557-8064

## Website

[isbe.net/Pages/  
Illinois-State-Seal-of-  
Biliteracy.aspx](http://isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Seal-of-Biliteracy.aspx)

isbe → multilingual →  
seal of biliteracy

