

What is the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy?

The **Missouri Seal of Biliteracy** and **Distinguished Missouri Seal of Biliteracy** are awarded to graduating high school students in districts with a DESE-approved program, who have demonstrated proficiency in *English, another language at specific levels, and sociocultural competence*. All Missouri students studying any of the world's languages are potential Seal candidates. The Missouri Seal is intended to promote not only the acquisition of another language but also the participation in a global society and economy. A measure of sociocultural competency is required of all students earning the Missouri Seal. The recognition of attaining biliteracy becomes a part of the high school transcript for these students and serves to certify attainment of biliteracy for the community, employers, and universities.

The Missouri Seal is meant to:

- encourage students to study languages
- certify attainment of biliteracy skills
- recognize, promote, and praise students for their accomplishment
- recognize the value of diversity
- provide employers with a means of identifying bilingual employees
- provide universities with a method of recognizing and giving credit for high level language skills
- prepare students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in a global economy and society
- strengthen relationships and honor the cultures and languages in a community



Eligibility

The Missouri Seal of Biliteracy is intended for all graduating high school students who demonstrate proficiency in standard academic English and any other language. The Seal should be awarded and celebrated at the culmination of the student's senior year.

It is important to emphasize that ALL students who acquire proficiency in another language in addition to English are potential candidates for the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy.

Native English-speaking students may acquire the second language through traditional world language classrooms, community-based programs, at home, worldly experiences or any other method attempted by the student.

English learners (ELs) and other heritage language learners who demonstrate proficiency in two or more languages are also eligible.

Assessment

A variety of assessments, including Advanced Placement Tests (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, the AAPPL, and STAMP4S are available in many languages. DESE has identified these tests for use within a Seal of Biliteracy program. Some districts have developed their own assessment process for languages where there are no existing tests and use a common rubric for scoring the tests aligned with World Language Standards. Currently, schools use a combination of assessments, course requirements, student work, and performance.

Why Implement a Seal of Biliteracy?

A Seal of Biliteracy is a statement by the school system that mastery of two or more languages is important. It encourages students to pursue biliteracy, honors the skills our students attain, and can be evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices. School districts decide how the Seal is awarded locally. It may take the form of a seal that appears on the diploma, a notation on the academic transcript, or both.

How to apply

To begin, carefully review the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy: [Implementation Guide](#) to begin planning at the district level. Identify a district employee responsible for the program and work through the specific details of how students will earn the seal. Then, seek formal school board adoption of the Seal. There are many examples of school board resolutions listed at <http://sealofbiliteracy.org/>

Once formal school board adoption is obtained, submit the Seal of Biliteracy – [Initial Application](#). If the application is determined to meet the minimum requirements set by DESE, you will be notified in writing of approval and will receive a digital copy of the Missouri Seal.

So far, eighty-four Missouri schools/districts have been approved to make the Seal of Biliteracy available to their students. Yours should be there, too!!

Who to contact

For questions, comments and assistance, please contact **Cammy Goucher** at 573-751-3926 or cammy.goucher@dese.mo.gov

sources:

<https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/missouri-seal-biliteracy>

<http://sealofbiliteracy.org/>