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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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BULLETIN NO. 016-22 SECONDARY EDUCATION AND PATHWAY PREPARATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
Educational Service District Assistant Superintendents
High School Principals

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Seal of Biliteracy Rules Change

CONTACT: Veronica Trapani, Ed.D, Associate Director – Content, World Languages
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PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Washington state Seal of Biliteracy recognizes public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English. To earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must demonstrate proficiency in English and in one or more world languages. The previous requirement for students to pass the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) in English Language Arts (ELA) has been removed with this rule change. English proficiency must now be demonstrated by meeting the statewide minimum graduation requirements in English established by the State Board of Education under [RCW 28A.230.090](#) and by graduating with their chosen pathway ([RCW 28A.300.575](#), [WAC 392-410-350](#)). World language proficiency must be demonstrated through an OSPI approved assessment.

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR EARNING THE SEAL OF BILITERACY

Updated Rules for English Proficiency

To earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must demonstrate proficiency in English. English proficiency must be demonstrated by meeting the statewide minimum graduation requirements in English language arts for the student's chosen pathway established by the State Board of Education under [RCW 28A.655.250](#). If a student has shown enough English proficiency to graduate, then that is appropriate to prove English proficiency for the Seal.

Students in all graduation pathways or an approved waiver during SY21-22 are eligible for the Seal.

Updated Rules for World Language Proficiency

To earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must also demonstrate proficiency in one or more world languages. World language proficiency must be established by achieving at least intermediate-mid proficiency on all test components aligned to the [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#) (ACTFL) scale. Tests which are not aligned to the ACTFL scale must show equivalent proficiency. Assessments must be national or international and approved by Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The list of approved assessments is maintained and updated as needed by OSPI. Currently available assessments are listed below.

All world languages are suitable to assess for the Seal, including Classical languages (Latin, Sanskrit, Ancient Greek), American Sign Language, and Tribal, Indigenous and Native languages. However, computer science or programming languages do not count toward world language credits.

Current list of OSPI Approved Assessments

Assessment	Provider
ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL)	Language Testing International (ACTFL)
ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA)	Language Testing International (ACTFL)
Advanced Placement (AP) Testing	College Board
ALTA Language Testing	ALTA Testing Services
American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI)	Gallaudet University
Cambridge International (CI) AS & A Level	Cambridge Assessment International Education
Custom Tests	OSPI World Language in partnership with Avant Assessment and Extempore
International Baccalaureate (IB) Testing	International Baccalaureate (IB)
National Examinations in World Languages (NEWL)	American Councils for International Education
Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) including 3S, 4S, WS, and Monolingual	Avant Assessment
Tribal Language Assessment	Tribe or Band
Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) & Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or Oral Proficiency on Computer (OPIC), including SOBL	Language Testing International (ACTFL)

Updated Rules for Tribal Language Proficiency

For Tribal languages, honoring tribal sovereignty, tribal consultation, and government to government relationships between Tribes and districts, each Tribe determines the level of proficiency students need to be considered biliterate. Tribes develop the methods and processes for determining proficiency in their respective Tribal languages. Teachers who instruct Tribal languages must be certified through the First Peoples' Language, Culture, and Oral Traditions Certification Program ([WAC 181-78A-700](#)). Affirmation that students have successfully earned the Seal of Biliteracy for Tribal languages follows the agreed processes determined through consultation with each Tribe. For additional information, please contact the [Office of Native Education](#).

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Additional information regarding training opportunities will be announced at a later date on the [Seal of Biliteracy](#) website and through the [World Languages Newsletter](#).

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Dr. Veronica Trapani, Associate Director – Content, World Languages, at 360-819-0950 or email veronica.trapani@k12.wa.us. For questions related to Native or Tribal languages, please contact Joan Banker, Instructional Program Specialist II, Office of Native Education, at 360-725-6160 or joan.banker@k12.wa.us.

The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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