

R7-2-317 State Seal of Biliteracy Program

A. Definitions:

1. For purposes of this rule, “foreign language” means any language other than English.

B. School districts and charter schools in this state may choose to participate in the State Seal of Biliteracy Program (Program) which recognizes students who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more foreign languages, in addition to English. School districts and charter schools participating in the Program may award the State Seal of Biliteracy to any high school student who graduates from a school operated by the school district or charter school and who meets the requirements of subsection 1 or 2, and subsection 3.

1. Assessment Method. To demonstrate language proficiency through the assessment method, the student must attain the required score on a language assessment as adopted by the State Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Arizona Department of Education, for purposes of demonstrating language proficiency for the Program in the four domains of speaking, writing, listening, and reading.

2. Alternative evidence model. A school district or charter school may choose to award the State Seal of Biliteracy through an alternative evidence method.

a. An alternative evidence method may be used in any of the following circumstances:

- i. No standardized assessment exists for the targeted foreign language;
- ii. Evaluating the language proficiency of a student with disabilities for whom the standardized assessment is inappropriate as determined by the student’s Individualized Education Program team or a student on a 504 plan as determined by the student’s 504 plan committee; or
- iii. The standardized assessment for the targeted foreign language does not assess one or more of the four domains of speaking, writing, listening and reading.

b. Any alternative evidence method used shall consist of a student portfolio that contains evidence of experience in the targeted foreign language, as well as work samples, test results and other accomplishments that demonstrate proficiency, as established in the guidelines developed by the Arizona Department of Education, in the targeted foreign language in the four domains of speaking, writing, listening and reading. Student portfolios shall comply with guidelines adopted by the Department.

- c. A school district or charter school that uses an alternative evidence model must notify the Arizona Department of Education.
3. To be eligible to be awarded the State Seal of Biliteracy, each student shall also demonstrate proficiency in English by meeting the following requirements:
 - a. The student must successfully complete all English Language Arts requirements for graduation, pursuant to A.A.C. R2-7-302, with an overall grade point average in those classes of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent; and
 - b. The student receives a passing score in English Language Arts on the state assessment.
 - c. If the student has a primary home language other than English, the student shall obtain a score of proficient based on the English language proficiency standards pursuant to A.R.S. 15-756.
- C. By October 1 of each year, the Arizona Department of Education shall make an electronic facsimile of the State Seal of Biliteracy available to each school district or charter school participating in the Program. Each participating school district or charter school shall identify each student who has met the requirements of the Program, affix the State Seal of Biliteracy to the student's diploma upon graduation, and shall note the receipt of the State Seal of Biliteracy on the transcript of the student.
- D. The Arizona Department of Education shall post on its website by July 1 of each year, the list of acceptable language assessments and the score to be achieved on each, as approved by the Board, which qualifies the student as proficient in a foreign language. The Arizona Department of Education shall ensure that all approved assessments are aligned to the Arizona world and native languages standards adopted by the Board.
- E. Each school district and charter school that chooses to participate in the Program shall meet the following requirements:
 1. Notify the Arizona Department of Education of its intent to participate in the Program at least 30 days prior to issuing the seal by filling out the form provided on the Arizona Department of Education's website.
 2. Designate at least one individual to serve as coordinator of the Program and provide that individual's name and contact information to the Arizona Department of Education.
 3. Using a format prescribed by the Arizona Department of Education, submit a report no later than 90 days after the end of the school year with the total number of students awarded the State Seal of Biliteracy, the number of seals for each targeted foreign language and the method used to determine proficiency in the foreign language.
 4. Make available to parents and students information regarding the Program and the name and contact information for the coordinator of the Program.

- F. The Arizona Department of Education shall establish guidelines and procedures to assist school districts and charter schools in the administration of the Program.