

## Commendation toward Bilingual

Students who do not meet the minimum requirements for the Seal of Bilingual may earn the Commendation toward Bilingual. Requirements include a minimum score of:



- 540 EBRW score on the SAT, *OR*
- 21 composite score on the ACT, *OR*
- 3.5 literacy score on the ACCESS for ELLs exam, *OR*
- I-1 on all parts of the AAPPL exam in English, *AND*
- 3 on the Advanced Placement language exam, *OR*
- I-1 on all parts of the AAPPL exam in your second language

## How is the Commendation toward Bilingual recognized?

An official seal will appear on your high school diploma, and your official transcript will also note that you attained the Illinois State Commendation toward Bilingual. Recipients are recognized with a medal during the Seal of Bilingual Awards Ceremony and at Senior Honors Night. Commendation toward Bilingual recipients are not eligible for college credit at public Illinois colleges and universities.

## Do I have to be a senior to participate in the Seal of Bilingual program?

No! You can start working toward your Seal of Bilingual as early as your freshman year. However, awards are only distributed in the spring of your senior year.

## Can I earn seals in more than one language?

Yes! Students who earn more than one Seal of Bilingual will have multiple seals on their diploma and will receive a medal for each language.

## West Aurora has a rich history of Seal of Bilingual and Commendation toward Bilingual recipients!

2016 – 77 awards

2017 – 113 awards

2018 – 112 awards

2019 – 121 awards


## Will YOU be next?



## Where can I get more information?

Please contact Julie Swartzloff,  
World Language Curriculum Coordinator  
jswartzloff@sd129.org  
(630)301-6559

Further information can also be found at:  
[bit.ly/seal129](http://bit.ly/seal129) &  
[aaplcentral.com](http://aaplcentral.com)

WEST AURORA SCHOOL DISTRICT 129 

# SEAL OF BILINGUAL



2019-2020

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Preparing Future Global Citizens

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[bit.ly/seal129](http://bit.ly/seal129)

## What is the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy?

A recognition given to high school seniors who exhibit the ability to communicate in English and a second language by the spring of their senior year.

## What are the benefits of the Seal of Biliteracy?

- ✓ Receive college credit at all public colleges and universities in Illinois
- ✓ More competitive on college applications
- ✓ Increased employment opportunities



## Who can apply?

### What languages are offered?

ALL interested students may earn the Seal of Biliteracy if they have mastered standard academic English and another language. Students who are native English speakers, English Language Learners, and/or bilingual speakers are eligible, regardless of whether they have taken a World Language course in School District 129.

The Seal of Biliteracy can be earned in ANY language.



## How are students recognized for earning the Seal of Biliteracy?

All students who meet the requirements for the Seal of Biliteracy are notified in the spring of their senior year. An official seal will appear on your high school diploma, and your official transcript will also note that you attained the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy. Recipients are recognized with a medal during the Seal of Biliteracy Awards Ceremony and at Senior Honors Night in May.

## How do I qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy?

You must demonstrate proficiency in English and a second language based on the minimum requirements below:

### ENGLISH



540 English (EBRW) score

or



4.8 composite score

or



I-5 or A on all sections

or



21 composite score

### SECOND LANGUAGE



score of 4 or 5

or



I-5 or A on all sections



## What if I speak a less common language?

Students who speak languages not tested on the AAPPL exam can still earn the Seal of Biliteracy. Mrs. Swartzloff will help you through the process, which involves developing a language portfolio. All interested students must register as a Seal of Biliteracy candidate by the fall of their senior year at:

[bit.ly/SealCandidate2020](http://bit.ly/SealCandidate2020)

## How do I become a candidate?

To become a Seal of Biliteracy candidate, students must do at least one of the following:

1. Register for an AAPPL exam, OR
2. Earn a qualifying ACCESS or AP score prior to their senior year of high school, OR
3. Email the coordinator for next steps

\*It is up to the student to complete all requirements!\*



## What is AAPPL testing?

The AAPPL exam is the most popular method for meeting the qualifying score in English and/or a second language. You can take this assessment as many times as you would like during your high school years. The AAPPL is currently offered in the following languages:

- Arabic
- French
- German
- Hindi
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Mandarin Chinese
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Thai
- English

Registration forms are available on the SD129 Seal of Biliteracy website, at the bookkeeper, from your World Language or EL teacher, or in the Language Studies Office. Fee waivers available.

Test Date:	Registration Due:	Results Out:
Saturday, September 21 AM	September 13	October 9
Monday, September 23 PM		
Saturday, November 9 AM	November 1	December 3
Monday, November 11 PM		
Saturday, January 25 AM	January 16	February 12
Monday, January 27 AM 🌞		
Monday, January 27 PM		
Saturday, March 7 AM	February 27	March 25
Monday, March 9 AM 🌞		
Monday, March 9 PM		