

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

Palo Alto Unified School District has been working together with the Santa Clara County Office of Education since the 2012 school year to award our eligible high school graduates with the Seal of Biliteracy. Appearing on the transcript of the graduating senior, the Seal of Biliteracy is a statement of accomplishment for gaining competency in two or more languages, and is viewed as an asset when applying for college admission.

Goals of the Seal of Biliteracy

- Encourage students to study other languages around the world
- Recognize and honor diverse languages
- Promote world language instruction and cross-cultural understanding
- Provide colleges and employers with a method of identifying people with biliteracy skills

Who receives this award?

Students who have demonstrated proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in another language in one or more languages in addition to English are eligible for this award. This seal will also be placed on the students' diploma upon graduation.

What are the eligibility criteria?

1. Complete all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 2.0 or above.
2. Pass the Smarter Balanced Assessments in English Language Arts administered in grade 11 with a proficient score or above
3. Be proficient in one or more languages in addition to English as demonstrated through one of three options (a-c)
 - a) Passing a foreign language Advanced Placement examination with a score of 3 or higher or an International Baccalaureate examination with a score of 4 or higher
 - b) Complete the district's approved consecutive four-year course of study in the same foreign language, and attain an overall GPA of 3.0 or above.
 - c) Pass the SAT 2 foreign language exam with a score of 600 or higher

How does my student apply for the Seal of Biliteracy?

1. The English Learner Office reviews senior transcripts using eligibility criteria to qualify students. There is not a need to apply.

Hyperlink

<http://mes.scoec.org/sealofbiliteracy/Pages/default.aspx>