

Illinois State Board of Education

SEAL OF BILITERACY

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school district, under the authorization of the Illinois State Board of Education, in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in two or more languages (ex: English and French) by high school graduation. The Seal of Biliteracy is a gold seal that appears on the-diploma of the graduating senior, is noted on the transcript, and is validation of superior performance, utilizing a standardized norm, which can be used for future employers and for college admissions.

How is biliterate different from bilingual? A person who is bilingual can fluently speak two languages. A person who is biliterate can speak, read, listen, and write proficiently in two languages.

To show biliteracy, you must score above the intermediate rating in the foreign language and must also score at least an 18 on the ACT English portion or have a composite ACT score of 21 or higher (or minimum 540 ELA score on the SAT).

What is the benefit of doing this?

- To show that you are highly proficient in another language in addition to English
- College admissions & placement, possible college credit, potential scholarships, and potential future employment benefits
 - *Scores will be released just a few weeks after testing.
- Have a special designation on your diploma

What does a student have to do to participate?

- Sign up and pay by **TBA**
- Pay \$25 – check to OTHS (*non-refundable)
- Take the online test

When do students take the test?

- The testing will take place in the **Smiley IMC on TBA**
 - There are 4 online tests (writing, speaking, listening, reading) at 30 minutes each. Many students in the past took longer than 30 mins per test. Plan on at least 3 hours, just to be on the safe side.

*There will be no alternate makeup date or time. We cannot guarantee that it will work out for you to test that day if you have other commitments. This is an optional test and it is possible that there will be scheduling conflicts. The \$25 fee is non-refundable once the tests are ordered. Please confirm that you will have all morning to test on **TBA** before signing up.*

Check out the State Seal of Biliteracy website for more information!

<https://www.isbe.net/sealofbiliteracy>

If you have any questions, please stop by room 308 (Mrs. Magee) or email mageel@oths.us.