

California State Seal of Biliteracy Program



California Department of Education
Multilingual Support Division

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Purpose of the State Seal of Biliteracy

The State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB) was established to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

The purposes of the SSB are to encourage pupils to study languages, to certify attainment of biliteracy, to provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills, to provide universities with a method to recognize and give academic credit to applicants seeking admission, to prepare pupils with twenty-first century skills, to recognize and promote foreign language instruction in public schools, and to strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community (*California Education Code [EC] Section 51460.*)

State Seal of Biliteracy Requirements

A student who graduates from high school must have achieved a high level of literacy and fluency in one or more language(s) in addition to English to be awarded the SSB.

The student must demonstrate:

- 1) **Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 in those classes.**
- 2) **Passage of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) for English language arts**, or any successor test, administered in grade eleven, **at or above the “standard met” achievement level**, or at the achievement level determined by the Superintendent for any successor test. Or, for 2022 graduates only, passage of the English language arts portion of a locally approved assessment for those districts that did not administer the CAASPP in the 2020–21 school year.
- 3) **Proficiency in one or more languages**, other than English, demonstrated through **one** of the following methods:
 - A. Passage of a world language **Advanced Placement (AP) examination** with a score of 3 or higher, or an **International Baccalaureate (IB) examination** with a score of 4 or more.
 - B. Successful completion of a **four-year high school course of study in a world language**, attaining an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in that course of study, and demonstration of **oral proficiency** in the language

comparable to that required to pass an AP or IB examination.

- C. Passage of a **district test** with a score of proficient or higher (**if no AP examination or off the shelf language tests exists** and the school district can certify that the test meets the level of an AP exam), demonstrating proficiency in all of the modes of communication (reading, writing, and speaking) that characterize communication in the language.
- D. Passage of the **SAT II** world language examination with a score of 600 or higher (for students who took the SAT II before the College Board discontinued it).

In addition to the requirements mentioned above, **if the primary language of a pupil is other than English, he or she shall demonstrate English proficiency on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)**, or any previous or successor state English language proficiency assessment, in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades one to twelve, inclusive (*EC* Section 51461).

Statistics

During the 2020–21 school year, the California Department of Education (CDE) awarded 72,593 SSBs.

For additional SSB statistics, please visit the CDE SSB web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/sealofbilitery.asp>.

Growth by Year

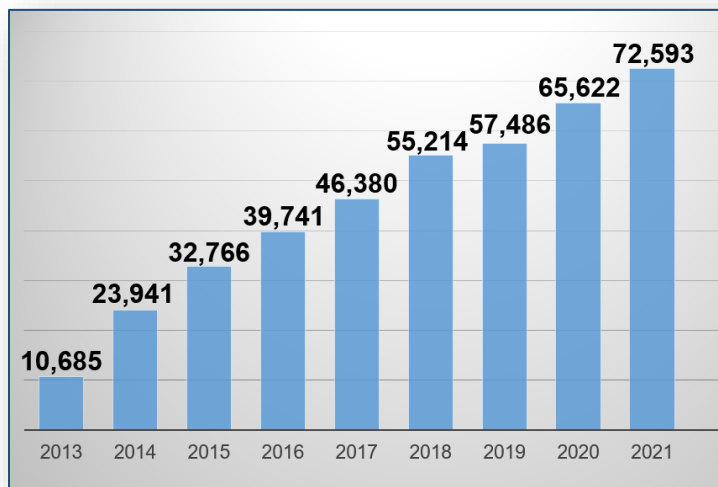


Table 1

Table 1 shows the growth in the number of SSBs awarded since the program was established in 2012.

In 2013, 10,685 SSBs were earned; in 2014, 23,941 SSBs were earned; in 2015, 32,766 SSBs were earned; in 2016, 39,741 SSBs were earned; in 2017, 46,380 SSBs were earned; in 2018, 55,214 SSBs were earned; in 2019, 57,486 SSBs were earned; in 2020, 65,622 SSBs were earned; and in 2021, 72,593 SSBs were earned.

Since 2013, a total of 404,428 SSBs have been awarded.

Top Languages

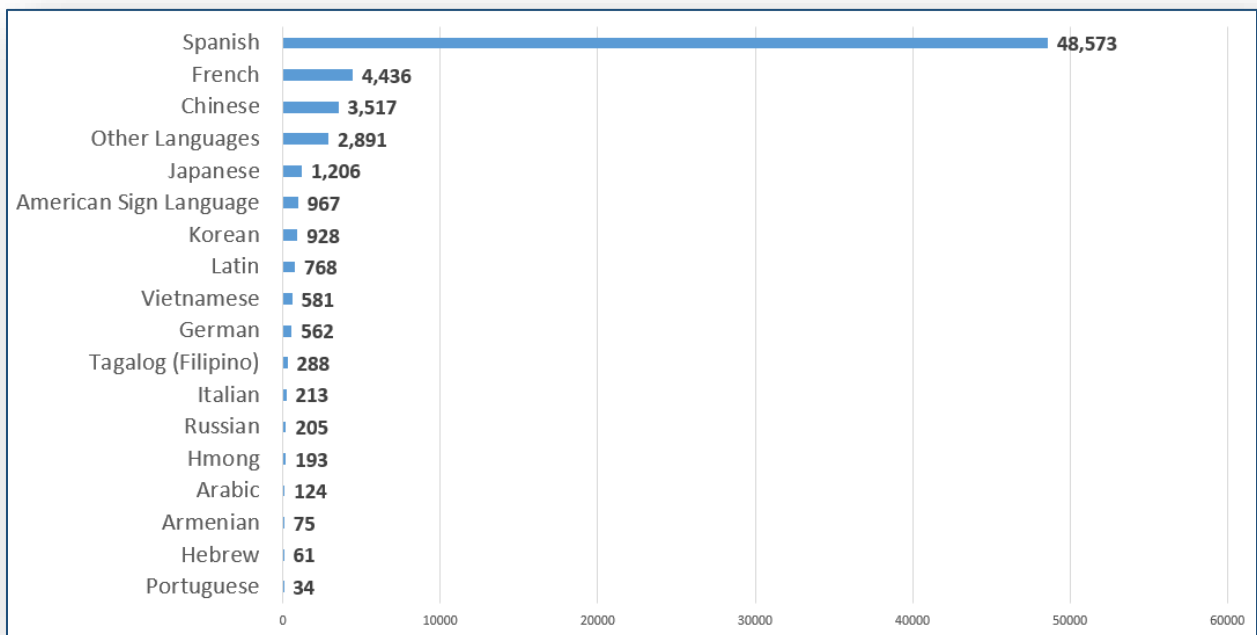


Table 2

Table 2 shows the number of seals awarded in each of the top requested languages in the 2020–21 school year.

The number of seals awarded in each language are: 48,573 in Spanish; 4,436 in French; 3,517 in Chinese; 1,206 in Japanese; 967 in American Sign Language; 928 in Korean; 768 in Latin; 581 in Vietnamese; 562 in German; 288 in Tagalog (Filipino); 213 in Italian; 205 in Russian; 193 in Hmong; 124 in Arabic; 75 in Armenian; 61 in Hebrew; and 34 in Portuguese.

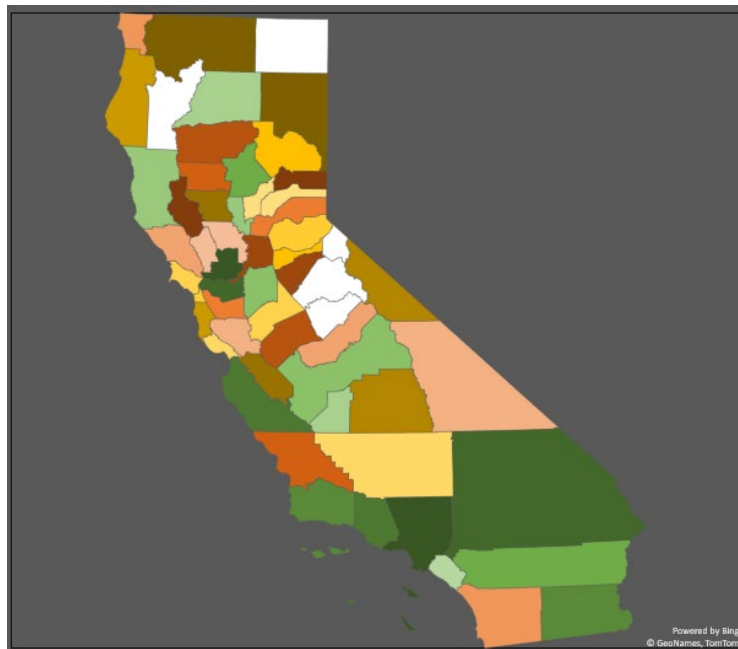
In addition to these languages, 2,891 seals were awarded in “other languages”.

The languages included in the “other languages” category are: Bulgarian, Burmese, Cebuano (Visayan), Chamorro (Guamanian), Cherokee, Czech, Dari, Dutch, Georgian, Greek, Gujarati, Haitian (Creole), Hungarian, Indonesian, Karen, Khmer, Krio, Lao,

Marathi, Mixteco, Nepali, Pashto, Polish, Romanian, Sinhalese, Swedish, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Yoruba.

Participating Counties

The counties that participated in the SSB program in the 2020–21 school year are Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba.



Top Ten Counties with Local Educational Agencies Requesting Seals

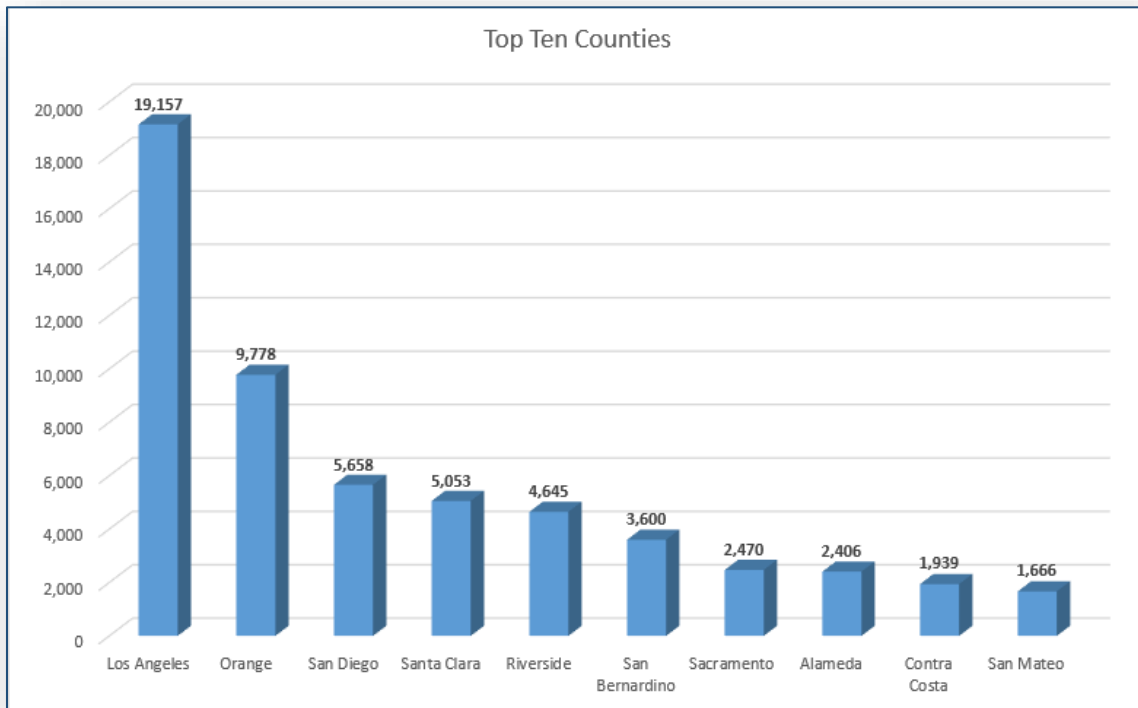


Table 3

Table 3 shows the top ten counties with local educational agencies (LEAs) requesting SSBs in the 2020–21 school year.

The top ten counties with LEAs requesting SSBs and the total number of SSBs awarded in that county are: 19,157 in Los Angeles; 9,778 in Orange; 5,658 in San Diego; 5,053 in Santa Clara; 4,645 in Riverside; 3,600 in San Bernardino; 2,470 in Sacramento; 2,406 in Alameda; 1,939 in Contra Costa; and 1,666 in San Mateo.

Insignia Request Process

Who can order insignias?

Public schools, direct-funded charter schools, school districts, and county offices of education are eligible to order SSB insignias.

What is the process for requesting insignias?

LEAs may request insignias from the CDE by completing the online Insignia Request Form, available on the CDE SSB web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/437537>.

What is the deadline to submit the Insignia Request Form?

It is recommended that LEAs submit the online Insignia Request Form at least four weeks prior to the graduation date. This will allow sufficient time to mail insignias to the LEA and for the insignias to be affixed to the diplomas at the local level.

Is there a cost associated with the State Seal of Biliteracy?

Per *EC* Section 51464, no fee may be charged to LEAs or students who participate in the SSB program.

CDE Resources

CDE SSB Web Page

The CDE SSB web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/437537>, includes information and resources for educators, parents, and students regarding the SSB program. This web page includes a link to the online Insignia Request Form.

Other Resources

Californians Together Seal of Biliteracy Website

The Californians Together Seal of Biliteracy website at <https://sealofbiliteracy.org>, contains information and resources on pathway awards as well as national statistics and information.

Contact Us

Please direct questions about the SSB to the Multilingual Support Division.

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California Department of Education

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