

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy is an award bestowed by the Illinois State Board of Education and given by Yorkville CUSD 115 in recognition and celebration of students who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English during their four years of high school. The state of Illinois officially adopted the Seal of Biliteracy in 2013; Yorkville CUSD 115 first participated in the program in the 2016-2017 school year.

Students who have earned the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy or the Illinois State Commendation Toward Biliteracy will receive their award at the time of their graduation. Their achievement will be acknowledged on student transcripts and diplomas.

Rationale for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

The Illinois State Board of Education and Yorkville CUSD 115 recognize the importance of language and how it helps prepare students for global citizenship. Not only is learning a language beneficial to students' cognitive development, it also provides opportunities for them to participate effectively in global political, social, cultural, and economic contexts. Further, the demand for employees to be fluent in more than one language is increasing rapidly in Illinois and throughout the world. The Seal of Biliteracy builds upon the rich linguistic and cultural assets of the district and community, providing students with the necessary skills to be successful in college, career, and life. Illinois state colleges and universities are required to award college credits for students obtaining either the Commendation Toward Biliteracy or the Seal of Biliteracy.

Students applying for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy or Commendation Award must demonstrate proficiency in English and an additional language.

The SAT is the state academic assessment for high school. Districts may use results from the ISBE-provided SAT School Day administration or an alternate SAT session to determine whether a student meets the award's English proficiency requirement, which is the English language arts/reading standard set by the state. On October 18, 2017, the Illinois State Board of Education approved a minimum English language arts (ELA) score of 480 to meet standards on the SAT.

To qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy I, students must demonstrate proficiency in English by any of the following assessments during their four years of high school:

| Assessments | Minimum Score to Qualify for Seal of Biliteracy | Minimum Score to Qualify for Commendation |
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| ACCESS for ELLs® | 4.8 overall | 3.5 literacy |

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| ACT | Meet the ACT college-ready benchmark for the English subject area test or achieve a composite score of at least 21 on the ACT. | |
| ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) Measure | I-5 (form B) | I-1 |
| AP English Language and Composition Exam | 4 | 3 |
| ESSA College and Career Indicator (transitional or dual credit coursework in ELA articulated in partnership with a community college) | Final GPA of 3.0 | Final GPA of 2.5 |
| SAT | 480 ELA score | |
| Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP™)4S | Intermediate High | |
| TOEFL® | 85 | Intermediate Low |
| TOEIC® | 550 | |

*These assessments are being grandfathered in though they do not meet one of the requirements that are part of a new formal procedure for approving Seal of Biliteracy assessments that was adopted in January 2021 – using either the ACTFL or Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scales for scoring. However, ISBE is continuing to allow the usage of these assessments to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy. All assessments approved after January 2021 must meet the new requirements, which can be found [here](#).

**These exams could be used for the Portfolio Method as they include languages for which there is no standardized test or ISBE has not yet approved of a standardized test for that language. As a reminder, if a standardized test exists for your target language, then you may not use the Portfolio Method.

***Students must request that their ALTA exams are scored with the ILR or ACTFL scale to qualify for an award. If a student receives their ALTA results with the CEFR scale, they must request the scores be converted to the ILR or ACTFL scale before it is considered viable.

To qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy by their senior year of high school, students must demonstrate proficiency in another language by any of the following assessments:

| Assessments | Languages | Minimum Score to Qualify for Seal | Minimum Score to Qualify for Commendation |
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| <p>Advanced Placement (AP®)* Language and Culture exam</p> <p>Exam ordering Special Preparation <i>(See note at bottom of page 5.)</i></p> | <p>Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>3</p> |
| <p>Advanced Placement (AP®)* AP Latin <i>(See note at bottom of page 5.)</i></p> | <p>Latin</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>3</p> |
| <p>Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP™)4S</p> <p>Ordering: Submit a contact request form or send an email to sales@avantassessment.org.</p> | <p>Arabic, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin (Simplified and Traditional) Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian, Spanish</p> | <p>Intermediate High American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)</p> | <p>Intermediate Low (ACTFL)</p> |
| <p>ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) Measure</p> <p>Exam ordering</p> | <p>Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai</p> | <p>I-5 (form B)</p> | <p>I-1</p> |

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| <p>ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA) ALIRA Exam Resource here</p> | <p>Latin</p> | <p>I-5</p> | <p>I-1</p> |
| <p>ACTFL Listening Proficiency Test (LPT)**</p> <p><i>This exam must be used in combination with the ACTFL OPI, RPT, and WPT in the same target language in order to qualify. Exceptions only for Portfolio Method. (See note at bottom of page 5.)</i></p> | <p>Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish</p> | <p>Intermediate High</p> | <p>Intermediate Low</p> |

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| <p><u>ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)**</u></p> <p><i>This exam must be used in combination with the ACTFL LPT, RPT, and WPT in the same target language in order to qualify. Exceptions only for Portfolio Method. (See note at bottom of page 5.)</i></p> | <p>Afrikaans, Akan-Twi, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Baluchi, Bengali, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cambodian, Cantonese, Cebuano, Chavacano, Czech, Dari, Dutch, Egyptian, French, Georgian, German, Greek (Modern), Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong/Mong, Hungarian, Igbo, Ilocano, Indonesian, Iraqi, Italian, Japanese, Javanese, Kazakh, Kashmiri, Korean, Kurdish, Lao, Levantine, Malay, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marshallese, Nepali, Norwegian, Pashto, Persian Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Croatian, Sindhi, Sinhalese, Slovak, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Tajik, Tamil, Tausug, Telugu, Thai, Tigrinya,</p> | <p>Intermediate High</p> | <p>Intermediate Low</p> |
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| | Turkish, Turkmen, Uighur, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Wolof, Wu, and Yoruba | | |
| <p>ACTFL Reading Proficiency Test (RPT)**</p> <p><i>This exam must be used in combination with the ACTFL LPT, OPI, and WPT in the same target language in order to qualify. Exceptions only for Portfolio Method. (See note at bottom of page 5.)</i></p> | Arabic, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish | Intermediate High | Intermediate Low |
| <p>ACTFL Writing Proficiency Test (WPT)**</p> <p><i>This exam must be used in combination with the ACTFL LPT, OPI, and RPT in the same target language in order to qualify. Exceptions only for Portfolio Method. (See note at bottom of page 5.)</i></p> | Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbo/Croatian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Vietnamese | Intermediate High | Intermediate Low |
| <p>ALTA Speaking and Listening Assessment***</p> | Afrikaans, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Arabic (Egyptian), Arabic (Iraqi), Arabic (Jordanian), Arabic (Lebanese), Arabic (Moroccan), Arabic (Saudi Arabia), Arabic (Sudanese), Arabic (Syrian), | 1+ Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) | 1 (ILR) |

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| <p><i>This exam must be used in combination with the ALTA Reading and Writing Assessments in the same target language in order to qualify. (See note at bottom of page 5.)</i></p> | <p>Arabic (Yemeni), Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bambara, Baluchi (Western), Bengali, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cambodian, Cape Verdean (Balavento), Cape Verdean (Sotavento), Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin), Chuukese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dari, Dutch, Ewe, Fante (Akan), Farsi, Finnish, French, French Canadian, Fulani, Ga, Georgian, German, Greek, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Hungarian, Igbo, Ilocano, Indonesian, Italian, Jamaican Patois, Japanese, Kannada, Karenni, Kazakh, Kinyarwanda, Korean, Kurdish (Kurmanji), Kurdish (Sorani), Latvian, Laotian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Malay, Malayalam, Mongolian, Navajo, Nepali, Norwegian, Oromo, Pashto, Pashto (Pakistan), Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Punjabi (Eastern),</p> | | |
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| | <p>Punjabi (Western), Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Sinhala, Slovak, Slovenian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Taiwanese, Tajik, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tibetan, Tigrinya, Turkish, Turkmen, Twi (Akan), Ukrainian, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Wolof, Yoruba</p> | | |
| <p>ALTA Reading Assessment^{***}</p> <p><i>This exam must be used in combination with the ALTA Speaking, Listening, and Writing Assessments in the same target language in order to qualify. (See note at bottom of page 5.)</i></p> | <p>See ALTA Speaking and Listening Assessment</p> | 1+ | 1 |
| <p>ALTA Writing Assessment^{***}</p> <p><i>This exam must be used in combination with the ALTA Speaking, Listening, and Reading Assessments in the same target language in order</i></p> | <p>See ALTA Speaking and Listening Assessment</p> | 1+ | 1 |
| <p><i>to qualify. (See note at bottom of page 5.)</i></p> | | | |

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| National Examinations in World Languages (NEWL)™ Registration and exam information | Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese | Intermediate High | Intermediate Low |
| Standard Test of Bulgarian as a Foreign Language Exam registration | Bulgarian | B1 (CEFR) | A2 (CEFR) |
| DELFL (Diplôme d'études en langue française) Chicago-based site Registering for the exam | French | B1 | A2 |
| Goethe Zertifikat Exam information | German | B1 | A2 |
| Deutsches Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz (DSD) | German | B1 | A2 |
| Certificate of Attainment in Greek "Ellinomatheia" | Greek | B1 | A2 |
| Egzaminy certyfikacyjne z języka polskiego jako obcego Registering for the exam | Polish | B1 | A2 |
| LAS Links (2021)* Exam ordering <i>(See note at bottom of page 5.)</i> | Spanish | Level 4 | Level 2 |

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| SIELE (Servicio Internacional de Evaluación de la Lengua Española) Exam ordering | Spanish | B1 | A2 |
| DELE (Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera) Exam registration | Spanish | B1 | A2 |

For more information about the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy, please contact Mike Camp, Coordinator of Bilingual and English Learner Services, at mcamp@y115.org or 630-553-4048, ex. 4145.

Scholarships are available for test fees.

There are three steps involved in the process

1) *Notify the World Language and English Learner Department Chair of your interest in testing for the Seal of Biliteracy by February of each year.*

2.) *Provide Payment for Tests*

- Scholarships are available to cover test fees.

3.) *Test Dates and Times*

- Tests will be taken in March of every year at Yorkville High School. Specific dates will be provided.