

2024 Legislative Impacts on Minnesota Bilingual Seals

November 2024

The 2024 Minnesota Legislative session changed Minnesota Statute 120B.022 impacting the interpretation of the language proficiency ratings for awarding the Minnesota Bilingual Seals, Multilingual Seals, and World Language Proficiency Certificates.

Important Changes made through the 2024 Legislative Session:

- Defined American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Intermediate Mid as an additional award level of World Language Proficiency Certificate. In the previous statutes, ACTFL Intermediate Mid was not defined for any award level. With this change, it is clearer that both ACTFL Intermediate Low and Mid qualify for a World Language Proficiency Certificate.
- Added the word, “overall” to describe the level of proficiency required for the Bilingual Platinum Seal, Bilingual Gold Seal, Multilingual Platinum Seal, Multilingual Gold Seal, and World Language Proficiency Certificate.
- Defined that overall proficiency levels of ACTFL Advanced Low, Intermediate High, Intermediate Mid, and Intermediate Low could be attributed from assessment that has listening, reading, speaking, and writing.

Context

The intention of the legislative change is to address the inequity that existed in the interpretation of ratings or scores of various assessments used for the Minnesota Bilingual Seals. For example, students taking the Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Culture and International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) Language B exams receive only one score which was derived from multiple components of language modalities such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Meanwhile on the assessment where ratings for each modality were provided, such as AVANT STAMP, ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL), and Minnesota Seals Assessments, students needed to meet the requirement in each of the four modalities. This created inequity in how scores were interpreted, particularly for multilingual learners who may not have access to instructional support in their languages in comparison to their peers who had instructional support through courses such as AP and IBDP at school. Additionally, language proficiency level varies across the

modalities and individual. The changes in this legislation recognizes the holistic nature of language proficiency development in K–12 learners whether the language is their heritage/home language or a new language.

Impact on Implementation:

- These updates in the legislation change how we interpret the proficiency ratings of modalities provided by AVANT STAMP 4S, AVANT STAMP WS, ACTFL AAPPL, and Minnesota Bilingual Seals Assessments (Extempore).
 - A composite score from AVANT assessments will be accepted. Any decimal points need to be rounded down.
 - Numerical values will be assigned to AAPPL and Extempore ratings. Schools need to calculate the average score from all four modalities. Some languages use both AVANT STAMP WS and Extempore. There are two different ways to calculate the average score.
 - It could be calculated from two separate sets of composite (average) scores that are provided by AVANT STAMP WS and Extempore. Add these two sets of composite (average) scores and divide by two, or
 - Add four separate numerical values of each of the four modalities from both AVANT STAMPS WS and Extempore and divide the number by four.
 - The table below shows what numerical values to assign each of the proficiency ratings.
 - The calculated composite (average) score determines the level of the award.
- The average score will determine the award; however, the following scores will automatically make students ineligible for the awards described below.
 - **If any modality is rated as 0, 1, 2, or non-ratable, the student will not be eligible for the Platinum or Gold Seals even if the average score exceeds the level of Advanced Low (7) or Intermediate High (6).**
 - **If any modality is rated as 0, 1, non-ratable, the student will not be eligible for the World Language Proficiency Certificate even if the average score exceeds the level of Intermediate Low (4) or Intermediate Mid (5).**

Numerical values to assign to proficiency ratings:

Proficiency Level	AAPPL Score Keys	Minnesota Bilingual Seals Assessment (Extempore)	Numerical Value to assign
Advanced Low	A-1	AL (Advanced Low)	7
Intermediate High	I-5	IH (Intermediate High)	6
Intermediate Mid	I-4, I-3, I-2	IM (Intermediate Mid)	5
Intermediate Low	I-1	IL (Intermediate Low)	4

Proficiency Level	AAPPL Score Keys	Minnesota Bilingual Seals Assessment (Extempore)	Numerical Value to assign
Novice High	N-4	NH (Novice High)	3
Novice Mid	N-3, N-2	NM (Novice Mid)	2
Novice Low	N-1	NL (Novice Low)	1

Effective Date

The new method of interpretation of the ratings will apply to students who will graduate after August 1, 2024, regardless of when the students took an assessment.

Examples of Determining the Award

- Example 1. Schools or districts will need to calculate the average score of the four modalities if the ratings come from two separate assessments, AVANT WS and Minnesota Bilingual Seals Assessment (Extempore).
- Example 2. Schools or districts use a composite score provided by AVANT.
- Example 3. Schools or districts need to assign the numerical values to the ratings of ACTFL AAPPL assessment and calculate the average.

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Assessment	AVANT STAMP WS Extempore	AVANT STAMP 4S	ACTFL AAPPL
Rating for Speaking	5	0	Advanced Low
Rating for Writing	4	4	Intermediate Mid
Rating for Listening	AL (7)	6	Advanced Low
Rating for Reading	IM (5)	6	Intermediate High

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Calculate a composite (average) score of all four modalities	AVANT provided a composite score of 4.5. Extempore provided an average score of 6. $4.5 + 6 = 10.5$ $10.5 \text{ divide by } 2 = 5.25$	AVANT provided a composite score of 4.	Assign the numerical value to each of the proficiency level. Advanced Low – 7 (x2), Intermediate Mid -5, and Intermediate High -6. Add these numbers and divide by four. The average score is 6.25.
The composite (average) score	5.25	4	6.25
Determine the award	The decimal point is rounded down. The numerical value of 5 is Intermediate Mid. This student does not have any rating of 0 or 1. Therefore; this student's score qualifies for a World Language Proficiency Certificate.	The numerical value 4 is Intermediate Low level; however, this student's score does not qualify for World Language Proficiency Certificate because of a rating of 0 for speaking modality.	The decimal point is rounded down. The numerical value of 6 is Intermediate High. This student does not have any rating of 0, 1, or 2. Therefore; this student's score qualifies for a Gold Seal.
Award	World Language Proficiency Certificate	No Award	Gold Seal

Additional Information

- When a student receives a rating such as non-ratable or 0, it is recommended to find out the exact reasons for those ratings. Depending on the reasons such as “inaudible voice,” or other technical issues, it is in the best interest for the student to be able to retake that portion of the test.
- Numerical values ensure a consistent and clear method of identifying the awardees.
- When reviewing the report with students, the actual proficiency levels such as Intermediate Low, Mid, High and descriptions should be used to discuss student's language proficiency.

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