

Seal of Biliteracy Information

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The Washington State Seal of Biliteracy recognizes public high school graduates who have attained an intermediate-mid level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. Students in all graduation Pathways are eligible to earn the Seal. Participating school districts with students eligible to receive the Seal shall place a notation on a student's high school diploma and high school transcript indicating that the student has earned the Seal.



What is the STAMP Assessment?

STAMP stands for Standards-Based Measurement of Proficiency and is a web-based assessment that assesses language proficiency that is approved by Washington State. The STAMP assessment is not used for placement in World Language courses; it is the assessment to be eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy.

Who can take the STAMP assessment and be on the path to earn the Seal of Biliteracy?

Students in grades 8-12 are identified by recommendation of a staff member based on the students knowledge of the language to be assessed. All students in grades 8-12 participating in the dual language program or enrolled in another language course are encouraged to take the STAMP Assessment.

When can students start taking the STAMP test?

Students are encouraged to take the “practice” STAMP assessment in 7th grade. In grades 8-12, students are identified and recommended to take the “formal” STAMP assessment in an effort to be on the path for the Seal of Biliteracy.

When does the STAMP assessment take place?

In WWPS, we offer the STAMP assessment twice a year. In the fall, we offer the assessment to grades 11-12 and in the spring, we offer the assessment to grades 8-12. Dates are provided to the schools, students and families.

How can the Seal of Biliteracy be earned?

In our district, students can earn the Seal of Biliteracy by passing the STAMP Assessment through AVANT, with a score of **five or higher in all four domains** or by passing an approved College Board AP World Languages and Cultures exam with a score of **three or higher**. Students who pass the STAMP assessment will receive four competency-based credits. **In addition, students must complete all four years of English Language Arts (ELA) graduation requirements for their chosen Pathway.** Students who successfully pass the STAMP assessment are “on the path” to the Seal of Biliteracy, and are considered “proficient,” but have not yet “earned” the Seal of Biliteracy until all requirements are met during their senior year.

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What is the difference between “proficient” for the Seal and “earned” for the Seal?

If a student passes an approved assessment by the State of Washington (STAMP or AP) but has not yet completed all ELA graduation requirements, they are considered as “proficient” for the Seal. Students who complete all ELA graduation requirements by the end of their senior year, will be considered as “earned” for the Seal on their high school transcript and high school diploma. **Proficient** means that they have yet to meet all ELA requirements along with a passing score on an approved Washington State assessment. **Earned** means that students have completed all ELA graduation requirements along with a passing score on an approved Washington State assessment.

Can a student earn the Seal of Biliteracy in multiple languages?

Yes, students can earn the Seal in multiple languages provided that requirements are met. In this case, each language will be represented with a different line on the high school transcript. Please note that a student will earn the Seal in all languages where proficiency has been met. It will then transition from “Proficient” to “Earned” contingent on the four years of ELA graduation requirements.

If a student earns the Seal, how is it recognized?

The student’s high school transcript and high school diploma will include a notation to indicate that the student earned the WA State Seal of Biliteracy. Students are also recognized during graduation events, if the information is available at that time. If testing results come back after graduation, students may return to the high school to have the Seal affixed to their diploma.

If a student takes two years of World Language at the middle school, and is pursuing the Seal of Biliteracy, do they need to take more World Language at the high school?

Two years of World Language taken during middle school can fulfill graduation requirements. However, some universities/colleges require two years of World Language taken specifically at the high school. Students are recommended to have conversations with their counselors to ask questions and receive the most current information.

Where can I find more information about the Seal of Biliteracy in Washington State?

Revised Codes of Washington

[RCW 28A.230.125](#)

[RCW 28A.300.575](#)

[WAC 392-410-350](#)

OSPI Information

<https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/world-languages/washington-state-seal-biliteracy>

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