Cedar Rapids Community School District
Seal of Biliteracy

The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) educates students from around the world. Our students come to CRCSD from over 60 countries, speaking more than 80 languages and dialects. CRCSD believes every student should have the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by the district to recognize students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages, one of which is English.

CRCSD understands that knowing and using more than one language is a critical 21st century skill. The Seal of Biliteracy:

- Values language as an asset;
- Recognizes the value of language diversity and cultural identity;
- Prepares students with 21st-century skills that will benefit them in the labor market and global society;
  and
- Provides employers, institutions of higher education, and grant or scholarship providers evidence of a student's world language skills and dedication to attaining biliteracy.

CRCSD boasts a robust world language program including courses in Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. The district is proud to offer courses available for heritage speakers in Spanish to better serve our community's growing linguistic communities.

Pathways have been created to ensure each student has access to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, regardless of world language and length of time learning English. Students must show proficiency in English as well as a world language.

For more information, please see the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy Guidance document.

Pathway #1 - For Students for Whom a World/Native Language Assessment Exists

Students need to receive proficiency in at least one English assessment and one world language assessment.

English Assessment	Minimum Score(s)
Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) in grades 9-11	English/Language Arts: Meeting
English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) in grades 9-12	All domains (listening, reading, speaking, writing): 4 or 5, resulting in a score of Proficient
ACT	English: 18
Advanced Placement (AP) Language or AP Literature Exam	3
SAT	English: 470

World Language Assessment	Language(s)	Minimum Score or Level Required
AP Language and Culture Exams	Spanish, Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Japanese	3
ALTA	Several languages, including Spanish, French, Swahili, Dari, Farsi, Haitian Creole, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, Pashto, Portuguese, and Somali	Intermediate-Mid (Must test in all reading, writing, speaking, and listening)

Students interested in taking the ALTA world language assessment need to complete the Request to Take World Language Assessment form. Forms are reviewed by the District Seal of Biliteracy Team. Students must illustrate their progress towards literacy in a world language to be approved to take the assessment. ALTA testing happens each year.

The district agrees to pay for the administration of one ALTA assessment per student during their high school career. If the student wishes to take the ALTA assessment multiple times, the student must pay for any additional test sessions.

For more information, please see the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy Guidance document.

Pathway #2 - Any Student for Whom a Language Assessment Does Not Exist for a Specific Language

Students must score in the proficient range on one of the following English assessments and complete a language portfolio.

English Assessment	Minimum Score(s)
English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) in grades 9 through 12	All domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening): 4 or 5, resulting in a score of Proficient
Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP)	English/Language Arts: Meeting
ACT	English: 18
Advanced Placement (AP) Language or AP Literature Exam	3
SAT	English: 470

World Language Assessment	Language(s)	Minimum Score or Level Required
Student Created Portfolio*	Any language not available through another approved assessment	Intermediate (ACTFL scoring rubric)

*For languages in which no approved assessment exists, CRCSD students can create a portfolio demonstrating proficiency in the four language domains: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Evidence used to demonstrate proficiency may include:

- Formal presentations in the targeted language; *(speaking)*
- Student-produced composition, articles, papers, and other formal documents in the targeted world language; *(writing)*
- Reading text in the targeted language *(reading)* and;
- Listening to a native speaker *(listening)*

CRCSD utilizes the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Language Proficiencies to determine a student's level of proficiency. Students need to receive a score of "Intermediate" to be considered proficient. The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines can be found here.

Native speakers are used to assess a student's language skills.

For more information, please see the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy Guidance document.

Pathway #3 - Any student who uses American Sign Language (ASL)

Students must score in the proficient range on one of the following English assessments and an ASL assessment.

English Assessment	Minimum Score(s)
English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) in grades 9 through 12	All domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening): 4 or 5, resulting in a score of Proficient
Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP)	English/Language Arts: Meeting
ACT	English: 18
Advanced Placement (AP) Language or AP Literature Exam	3
SAT	English: 470

ASL Assessment	Minimum Score or Level Required
American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI)	3

Students interested in taking the ASLPI assessment need to complete the Request to Take World Language Assessment form. Forms are reviewed by the District Seal of Biliteracy Team. Students must illustrate their progress towards literacy in a world language to be approved to take the assessment. ASLPI testing happens each year, as necessary.

The district agrees to pay for the administration of one ASLPI assessment per student during their high school career. If the student wishes to take the ASLPI assessment multiple times, the student must pay for any additional test sessions.

For more information, please see the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy Guidance document.