

January 9, 2025 Office Hour Topics:

Seal of Biliteracy for High School Diplomas Requirements

The Seal of Biliteracy is a credential given by a Colorado school or district recognizing students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. A Seal of Biliteracy encourages students to pursue biliteracy skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions office. The following is guidance provided by the Senate Bill 17-123 to guide districts through implementing the pathway of the Seal of Biliteracy for high school diplomas. [Contact the Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator for more information.](#)

Colorado Senate Bill 17-123 authorizes the Local Educational Agency (LEA) to grant a Seal of Biliteracy for high school diplomas for graduating high school students who attain proficiency or higher in one or more world languages in addition to attaining proficiency or higher in English. To meet Colorado Seal of Biliteracy for High School Diplomas, a graduating student must meet requirements outlined on the [Seal of Biliteracy for High School Diplomas Minimum Requirements document](#).

Districts that would like Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to review their award criteria for the Colorado Seal of Biliteracy for High School Diplomas in any of their high schools and/or want their district listed on the CDE Seal of Biliteracy website must complete an application. In order to update and compile all of the Seal of Biliteracy data in one location, districts already implementing the Colorado Seal of Biliteracy and listed on the website are also asked to complete the digital application. [Application to Post District Criteria for Colorado Seal of Biliteracy for High School Diplomas.](#)

Seal of Biliteracy Body of Evidence

Senate Bill 17-123 established requirements by which high school students may earn a diploma endorsement in biliteracy if they demonstrate proficiency in English and at least one World Language. The law allows students to demonstrate proficiency through a Body of Evidence (BOE) for districts and schools that do not have Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, or district developed exams available for students to demonstrate proficiency. In addition, the law required CDE to establish criteria for a BOE that students may use to demonstrate proficiency. For districts that do not have an AP, IB or local assessment available, a district may use a BOE criteria to meet the qualifications for the Diploma Endorsement for Biliteracy. [List of CDE Approved World Language Assessments.](#)

The district criteria for a body of evidence must include:

- Demonstrate proficiency in all domains of the language through reading, writing, speaking and listening
- Be comparable in rigor to an Advanced Placement Test
- Be submitted to the CDE to be posted on the CDE website for the Diploma Endorsement for Biliteracy

Districts may also consider district criteria for the body of evidence to include:

- Multiple modes of assessment to complete BOE- interpersonal, written text, assessment, presentation
- Student's proficiency in demonstrating social and academic language
- Using language in a real-world setting through community service
- Language Portfolios