

## VISION

Prepare students to become 21<sup>st</sup> Century global citizen in a multilingual and multicultural world.

## BILITERACY

The ability to read, speak and write in two or more languages at a proficient level.

## AWARD COMPONENTS

- Certificate and/or Medallion
- Seal on Diploma
- Transcript notation
- Special recognition at graduation

## MODELS

Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia already encourage and award the Seal of Biliteracy. In many states, where there is no related legislation, the Seal of Biliteracy is voluntarily awarded by school districts. California awarded over 10,000 graduates the Seal of Biliteracy in the Spring of 2012.

Go to [SealofBiliteracy.org](http://SealofBiliteracy.org) to see a map of participating states.

Contact your school or school district and tell them you want biliterate high school seniors to be awarded the Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation. Teachers and parents can lead a Pathways to Biliteracy initiative in their schools as early as preschool.

## SEAL OF BILITERACY

Contact Information &  
General Inquiries

[info@sealofbiliteracy.org](mailto:info@sealofbiliteracy.org)

<https://sealofbiliteracy.org>



[AATSP.org](http://AATSP.org)



Additional Resources

[ACTFL.org](http://ACTFL.org)

[NABE.org](http://NABE.org)

[theglobalseal.com](http://theglobalseal.com)

[duallanguageschools.org](http://duallanguageschools.org)

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## The Seal of Biliteracy



## A Vision for Our Students

A Recognition for Eligible Graduating High School Seniors

Presented by  
The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP)

## WHAT IS THE SEAL OF BILITERACY?

First developed by Californians Together and approved by the State of California, the Seal of Biliteracy is an award provided to graduating high school seniors by local school districts or schools. The Seal of Biliteracy is widely available in the United States.

The Seal of Biliteracy is a statement of accomplishment for attaining competency in two or more languages and is viewed as an asset when applying for college admission or employment.

Participation by a school district is voluntary but strongly encouraged.

### GOALS

In awarding the Seal of Biliteracy to graduating high school seniors who meet the requirements, the school district and school seeks to:

- Encourage students to develop and maintain biliteracy and multilingual skills;
- Recognize and honor our rich and diverse language assets;
- Promote Dual and World Language instruction in our schools;
- Promote the development of language and cultural appreciation and cross-cultural understanding;
- Encourage the development of dual language immersion programs and world, native, and heritage language programs in school;
- Provide employers with a method of identifying people with biliteracy skills.

## A VISION FOR OUR STUDENTS

*Which states have already passed legislation incorporating the Seal of Biliteracy?*

Forty-nine US states and the District of Columbia have approved the Seal of Biliteracy, and one other is currently considering legislation. Many school districts nationwide have already incorporated legislation or rules offering the Seal of Biliteracy in their school districts.

*What languages, in addition to English, would qualify for Seal of Biliteracy status?*

Eligible languages include all modern languages, Latin, American Sign Language, Native American Languages, and an individual's native language. Spanish and English is the most popular language combination. Portuguese and English awards are currently in the top twelve of language combinations.

*How do high school students qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy?*

Students need to qualify in English and another language. The State Board of Education determines qualification for proficiency in English. For other languages, committees comprised of teachers and leaders of language communities may identify the criteria from existing sources.

*What incentives toward attainment of the Seal of Biliteracy will be made available at other grade levels?*

Participating schools or school districts design "pathways" to the Seal of Biliteracy. Pathways may begin as early as preschool and continue at selected levels in elementary and junior high school. Schools and/or districts may award certificates or other symbols of recognition to students who are showing advancement in English and/or another language.

## BENEFITS

*How does the United States benefit from the Seal of Biliteracy?*

- Students are encouraged to develop bilingual and biliteracy skills.
- Higher graduation rates (than monolingual peers).
- Higher college matriculation rates.
- States and school districts have a system in place for certifying biliteracy.
- Universities can identify students eligible for advanced language placement.
- Employers can find job candidates qualified for positions requiring biliteracy skills.

*How do youth in the United States personally benefit from the Seal of Biliteracy?*

- Some colleges/universities award academic credits for the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Expands career opportunities.
- Higher career earnings.
- Opportunities become available in a wide range of social, educational, economic, political & global contexts.
- Research shows that bilingual students perform better on standardized tests.
- Language abilities contribute to cognitive development and problem-solving skills.
- Involvement in other languages and cultures leads to a greater understanding of one's own language and heritage.