



## Career, Standards and Assessment Services

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### **Kansas Seal of Biliteracy Certificate Adopted by Kansas Board of Education, May 17, 2016.**

#### **Purpose**

It is proposed that a “Seal of Biliteracy” certificate be awarded by Kansas State Department of Education and a local school district to recognize any student who has attained proficiency in English and one or more other world languages by the time the student graduates. The recognition for attaining biliteracy becomes part of a student’s high school record. It explicitly addresses the Career and Technical Education foundational skill of communicating “respectfully and effectively with people of different cultures and diverse perspectives.” The Seal is a statement of accomplishment that recognizes a student’s readiness for career and college, and for engagement as a global citizen.

*Monolingualism is the illiteracy of the 21st century.*  
- Gregg Roberts, Utah State Office of Education

Four national organizations collaborated to create national guidelines for the Seal of Biliteracy: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE), National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSSFL), and TESOL International Association (2015). To ensure consistency in the significance of this recognition, the KSDE World Language Advisory Council recommends following these national guidelines with appropriate additions and guidance for implementation in Kansas.

#### **Definition of Terms**

“Biliteracy” refers to having a functional level of proficiency in two or more languages. The level of proficiency is not necessarily identical for all languages, but must include both social and academic language skills. This includes listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

#### **Qualifications**

Upon completion of high school all students are eligible to attain the Seal of Biliteracy certificate. Students must demonstrate the state-determined level of proficiency in English, as well as one or more additional languages, be they native languages, heritage languages, languages learned in school, or languages learned in other settings.

#### **Level of Language Proficiency Required**

Proficiency in English: Both native and non-native speakers of English must provide comparable evidence of English Proficiency, as demonstrated with evidence described below.

Proficiency in other Languages: Native and non-native speakers of a language other than English must provide evidence of proficiency in that language. The *minimum* proficiency level should be “Intermediate Mid” based on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines or equivalent, and in all domains.

Kansas will adopt a two-tier Seal of Biliteracy, awarding a Kansas **Gold** Seal of Biliteracy for “Intermediate Mid” (ACTFL) and Kansas **Platinum** Seal of Biliteracy for “Advanced Low” (ACTFL). The former is attainable by learners following a 6-8 year sequence of middle school and high school courses. The latter is attainable for students completing bilingual or dual language programs, or with

extensive exposure to language outside of the school setting. Variations to proficiency levels will be made due to unique characteristics of certain languages. Examples include, but are not limited to American Sign Language, Classical Greek, Latin, and Native American Languages. The guidance document will include specifics.

### **Evidence Required**

Assessments already exist for English and other languages which provide valid and reliable means of measuring students' language performance. The evidence needs to evaluate students' use of the language, not knowledge about the language. In cases where valid assessments of specific languages are not available, a process will be outlined through which comparable proficiency may be determined.

English: The student will demonstrate English proficiency by completing language arts requirements for high school graduation and by achieving a benchmark score on a validated test such as:

- Kansas English Language Arts Assessment at high school level "career and college ready" (3 or higher)
- Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessment for English Language Learners "proficient (4)" or higher
- Other assessments identified by the state as appropriate for demonstrating English proficiency equivalent to meeting high school graduation requirements.

Other Languages: The student will demonstrate proficiency in the language other than English through a validated test, such as:

- Advanced Placement Exam (score of 3 or 4 for gold; score of 5 for platinum)
- International Baccalaureate Exam
- Oral Proficiency Interview, Reading Proficiency Test, and Writing Proficiency Test (ACTFL)
- Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP4S)
- ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL)
- Tribal language validation by tribal officials
- Signed Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) for American Sign Language
- ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Exam (ALIRA)
- Other assessments correlated to the required minimum level of language proficiency.

Additional assessments and/or combinations thereof will be identified in a guidance document prepared by the KSDE World Language Advisory Council.

### **Equitable Access**

"All students" means all, regardless of language background or any documented condition that may exclude demonstration of language proficiency in one of the modes of communication. Accommodations, such as those already in place for state-required assessments of language, should be included for assessments and requirements used to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy certificate. All students should receive information on the Seal of Biliteracy upon entering middle and high school settings so that they are able to organize their Individual Plan of Study to meet the requirements of this honor.

### **State/District Process for the Award.**

The Seal of Biliteracy certificate will be awarded upon high school graduation. The district will identify which students will receive this honor, based on the evidence described above. KSDE will provide guidance concerning documentation of those receiving the Seal of Biliteracy certificate. The award could be implemented as early as May, 2017.