

The Seal of Biliteracy



Mahomet-Seymour World
Language Department



Jayne Bajer
Jessica Briggs
Jenna Bryant
Ellen Ericson
Danielle Niemi
Jackie Risley

What is it?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school, school district, or county office of education in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. Our vision is to help students recognize the value of their academic success and see the tangible benefits of being bilingual.

Its purpose is to encourage students to pursue biliteracy, to honor the skills that students attain and can document and to provide evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admission office.

History

The Seal of Biliteracy was first adopted in New York State. Illinois was the 3rd state to introduce and pass legislation. Since that time, many more states have started the process to institute their own seal.

While still in its infancy in Illinois, many suburban schools are beginning to recognize students who have practiced their language skills in multiple languages to the point of being considered proficient. Adopting the Seal of

Biliteracy would continue the history of Mahomet-Seymour's reputation of being a progressive and outstanding district outside of the Chicago suburbs.

How

Students must demonstrate proficiency in two languages. There are two categories in which students might fall: English language learners and foreign language learners. In order to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy the following requirements must be met:

English Language Learners:

ACCESS for ELL Learners: 5 overall composite and 4.2 in reading and 4.2 in writing

Proficiency in first language at the intermediate high proficiency level. (I-5 on AAPPL assessment)

Second Language Learners:

PSAE grade 11 score of MEETS STANDARDS or above in Reading.

PARCC: Meets standard in English Language Arts

Proficiency in second language at the intermediate high proficiency level.

I-5 in all areas on the AAPPL exam, form B

Mahomet-Seymour English language learners who would like to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy would be administered the AAPPL proficiency test assuming that the test is able to assess the student's first language. If a student's first language is something other than Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Russian, Spanish an alternative assessment would be administered. The test would be administered on a Saturday and students would be required to pay \$20 to cover the cost of the test.

Mahomet-Seymour second language learners who would like to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy in levels IV or AP would be administered the AAPPL proficiency test in late fall to early winter. The test would be administered on a Saturday and students would be required to pay \$20 to cover the cost of the test.