

SEAL OF BILITERACY

To recognize its high achieving students, the Jackson Public School District offers to those students who are proficient in more than one language the Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes and awards students who have attained proficiency in one or more world languages and English by high school graduation. Recognition for demonstrating a level of biliteracy shall be indicated on the high school transcript for students.

All students, including those whose native language is English or another world language and a student with disabilities, are eligible to attain one of the two levels of Seals. This accomplishment is based on evidence of the student achieving the designated level of language proficiency in English plus one or more other languages during their high school years. For this policy, world languages may be viewed as any natural human language other than English. Students may attain one of the following levels of biliteracy:

1. Silver Seal of Biliteracy – which demonstrates a functional fluency at the intermediate-mid range,
2. Gold Seal of Biliteracy – which demonstrates a working fluency at the advanced-low range.

Students are only recognized and awarded at one level of biliteracy. Minimal score requirements and acceptable assessments for both levels of biliteracy are identified by MDE in the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Acceptable Evidence for Silver and Gold. The most updated version provided by MDE will be used to determine awards.

Seal of Biliteracy Eligibility

Every Seal of Biliteracy student candidate needs to complete an application with his/her counselor to begin the process to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy.

Native or non-native English speakers who meet the following criteria before the senior year or the spring semester before graduation:

1. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in **English** by meeting the current MDE minimum score requirements in **one** of the following assessments (see the full list in Appendix A of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines):
 1. English section of the ACT, or
 2. AP English Language and Composition, or
 3. AP English Literature and Composition, or
 4. English section of the SAT, or
 5. MDE State English II test, or
 6. Current MDE English Language Proficiency Test.

2. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in a **world language** other than English by meeting the current MDE minimum score requirements in **one** of the following assessments (see full list in Appendix A of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines):
 - a. AP French, German, Italian, or Spanish Language and Culture Exam, or
 - b. AAPPL ACTFL Proficiency test in the following languages: Spanish, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Hindi, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Thai, or

- c. Avant Proficiency Test in the following languages: Spanish, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Polish, Russian, and Cantonese, or
- d. American Sign Language Proficiency Interview.

Standards

Students shall demonstrate a minimal level of proficiency in English, and one or more additional languages, whether it be a native language, heritage language, a language learned in school, or another setting. Standards for the award include:

1. The Seal shall be completed by an eligible student's high school graduation date.
2. The Seal shall be noted on the high school transcript as a credential that can be viewed by colleges, universities, and future employers.
3. Students shall be informed of the Seal in the 7th and 8th grade along with MDE requirements.
4. Students should meet regularly with their high school counselor to track their progress towards biliteracy. This tracking should include requirements for both English and a world language.
5. After meeting the requirements for the Seal, the counselor and student should work together to complete and submit an application where the evidence will then be verified by the counselor.
6. The school will submit a seal reporting form to MDE.

Awarding

Awarding of the Silver Seal of Biliteracy or the Gold Seal of Biliteracy shall be completed by high school graduation, and shall include the following:

1. The seal shall be added to the high school transcript as it is the credential that is viewed by post-secondary institutions and future employers.
2. The achievement of biliteracy shall be recognized at graduation and awards ceremonies.

Reporting

The Superintendent shall devise procedures for collecting, recording, and maintaining student data for those recognized for biliteracy and the evidence upon which it is based. This data shall be reported to MDE and shall include:

1. Languages other than English in which students earned the seal,
2. Number earning the seal who are former English Learners, and
3. Seal level earned by each student.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi; Mississippi School Boards Association

LEGAL REF: Miss. Code Ann. §37-1-3

[Mississippi Department of Education, Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines](#)

[Mississippi Department of Education, State Board Policy](#)

DATE: April 20, 2021

AMENDED: April 20, 2021