



Norwalk Public Schools is pleased to announce that students will have the opportunity to be awarded the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy was established by the State Board of Education to recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more languages. Students were eligible to earn the Seal of Biliteracy beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

On June 6, 2017, the Governor signed the bill into law as Public Act 17-29. Section 1(f) of Public Act 17-29 states that,

“The State Board of Education shall establish criteria by which a local or regional board of education may affix the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy on a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages. For purposes of this subsection, ‘foreign language’ means a world language other than English and includes American Sign Language and any other language spoken by a federally recognized Native American tribe.”

The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes the value of students’ academic efforts, the tangible benefits of being bilingual and biliterate and prepares students to be 21st century global citizens in a multicultural, multilingual world. The Seal of Biliteracy acknowledges that mastery of two or more languages is a valuable asset for both individuals and their communities. Also, the Seal of Biliteracy provides recognition to English learners (ELs) for the great value of developing English and maintaining their primary language.

To attain the Seal of Biliteracy, students’ *use* of the language must be demonstrated, rather than their *knowledge* about the language. Therefore, a student must demonstrate proficiency in English and another language by meeting the criteria described below. Both native and non-native speakers of English must provide comparable evidence of English language proficiency. The language performance should be demonstrated in both social and academic use of the language, in all modes of communication.

To be eligible to receive the Seal of Biliteracy, the two academic requirements below must be met:

1. Student must complete all English language arts requirements for graduation.
2. Student must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English in grades 10, 11, or 12 as demonstrated through one of the following methods listed in the Assessment of Evidence table.

**Assessment of Evidence**

Assessment	Languages Offered	Minimum Score
ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL)	Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Thai	Intermediate level 3 in all four domains
ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA)	Latin	Level 3
International Baccalaureate (IB) World Language Exam	Mandarin, Japanese, Arabic, Spanish, French, and Italian	Level 4
Advanced Placement (AP) World Language Exam	Latin, French, Spanish, Italian	Level 3

For a student whose primary language is not English and proficiency cannot be established by any of the assessments listed in the Assessment of Evidence table above, the District will determine a plan for measuring a student's level of proficiency. This plan, to the extent practicable, will include assessment of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

For more information regarding the Seal of Biliteracy, please contact the ELL Instructional Specialist at 203-854-4090 or the Director of Humanities at 203-854-4080. Or you can visit:

[www.ct.gov/sde](http://www.ct.gov/sde)  
[sealofbiliteracy.org](http://sealofbiliteracy.org)