Want to know more about qualifying for the Seal of Biliteracy?

If you are interested in learning more about Hartford Public Schools guidelines for the Seal of Biliteracy, please contact Kim Winfield, World Language Instructional Coach at ruofk001@hartfordschools.org

ACTFL= American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
AAPL= Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages
ALIRA=ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment
OPI=Oral Proficiency Interview
WPT= Writing Proficiency Task

Who We Are

Hartford Public Schools
Daisy Torres, Director of English Learner Services
World & Dual Language Programs
Kim Winfield, World Language Instructional Coach

HPS High Schools
Bulkeley High School
Capital Preparatory Magnet
Classical Magnet School
Global Communications Academy
Great Path Academy @ MCC
Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy
Hartford Public High School
Pathways Academy of Technology and Design
R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts
Sport and Medical Sciences Academy
University High School of Science and Engineering
Thomas Snell Weaver High School

Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy

Hartford Public Schools
What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to recognize students who have studied and attained proficiency in English and one or more languages by high school graduation. 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 for the great value of developing English and maintaining their primary language.

What other states award the Seal of Biliteracy?

Currently, 37 states and Washington DC have approved a statewide Seal of Biliteracy. (See the table below for details.)

What does the Seal measure?

The seal measures a student’s ability to use a language for real world purposes. To attain the Seal of Biliteracy, students’ use of the language must be demonstrated, rather than their knowledge about the language. Biliterate students should be able to handle a variety of tasks in social situations, write compositions and essays, be understood by native speakers, read about a variety of topics, and explain the relationship between the cultures and traditions of their languages.

“[Through] achieving the Seal of Biliteracy I have been able to express myself better with the people I know. At my University I have been able to take classes with a variety of people and have been able to relate [to them] because we are bilingual. It has opened many doors and more to come for my future.’

- Kerianne P. Great Path Academy, class of 2020

Benefits for Students

The Seal of Biliteracy will be affixed on a student’s diploma and appear on his/her transcript. This prestigious recognition:

- Encourages all students to pursue proficiency in at least one language other than their native language.
- Rewards students for their level of proficiency or mastery of a language.
- Highlights second language ability as a key 21st century skill in college, career, and life.
- Shows potential employers that a student has the ability to effectively communicate with people from two or more languages and cultures, both orally and in writing.

Who is eligible for the Seal?

The Seal of Biliteracy may be awarded to eligible senior students who are:

⇒ enrolled in upper level World Language courses
⇒ Heritage Speakers or English Learners who speak and study a different language at home

Eligible students must:

1. Take either the AAPPL, ALIRA, or OPI/ WPT language proficiency assessment in their senior year and score an Intermediate Mid proficiency or higher in speaking, writing, reading, and listening

3. Fulfill all English Language Arts requirements for graduation