



*Fostering learning, excellence and civic responsibility*



The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by the district to recognize students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages, one of which is English, by high school graduation. Some of the goals of this effort include:

- Encourage students to study world languages
  - Certify attainment of biliteracy
  - Provide a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills
  - Prepare students with 21st century skills
  - Recognize and promote world language instruction in public schools
  - Strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community
- 

### **WHY IS THE SEAL OF BILITERACY IMPORTANT?**

Being able to know and use more than one language is a critical skill for the 21st century. The Seal of Biliteracy:

- Values language as an asset
- Recognizes the value of language diversity & cultural identity
- Prepares students for the 21st century skills that will benefit them in the labor market and the global society
- Provides employers, universities, and grant/scholarship providers with a method to recognize applicants for their dedication to attainment of Biliteracy.

Students who earn the Seal of Biliteracy will be recognized during the graduation ceremony, and the seal will be shown on their diploma and official transcript. For more information about the State Seal of Biliteracy, visit the [Iowa Department of Education website](#).

---

**(Cont'd on next page)**

## REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY IN A WORLD LANGUAGE

To be eligible to be awarded the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy, each student shall demonstrate proficiency in a world language. The requirement must be met during the course of each student's high school years. The assessment to demonstrate proficiency in a world language is:

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Language(s)</b>	<b>Minimum Score to Qualify for Seal of Biliteracy</b>	<b>More Information on Assessment</b>
ACTFL Assessment of Performance towards Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL)	Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai	Intermediate Two (I-2)  This level is required on all four components of the assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interpretive Listening</li><li>• Interpretive Reading</li><li>• Interpersonal Listening and Speaking</li><li>• Presentational Writing</li></ul>	<a href="#">AAPPL Exam</a>  <a href="#">Practice Demo tests (Use Form A)</a>  Cost: \$20 for all four components

---

(Cont'd on next page)

## REQUIREMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH

To be eligible to be awarded the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy, each student shall demonstrate proficiency in English. The requirement must be met during the course of each student's high school years. The assessment options to demonstrate proficiency in English include:

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Minimum Score</b>
ACT	English 18
AP Language or AP Literature Exam	3
English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA 21) in grades 9-12	4 or 5 in all domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening)
SAT	English 470
Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) in grades 9-12	Proficient in English/Language Arts
Most recent Iowa Assessment results (2018-19 only)	Proficient in Reading Comprehension

(Cont'd on next page)

## SEAL OF BILITERACY FAQ

**Q: Where can I find more information about the Seal of Biliteracy?**

A: At [educateiowa.gov/biliteracy-seal](http://educateiowa.gov/biliteracy-seal) or [sealofbiliteracy.org](http://sealofbiliteracy.org).

**Q: Can the Seal of Biliteracy be awarded to seniors after they graduate if their test results are not available in time for graduation?**

A: Yes. If the results of an approved language assessment taken while the student was enrolled in high school are not available at the time of graduation, the district can award the Seal of Biliteracy when results are available after graduation.

**Q: Do students have to prove proficiency through language assessments during a single year to earn the Seal of Biliteracy?**

A: No. Students can take the assessments anytime during grades 9-12.

**Q: Can students take the assessments more than once?**

A: Yes. A student could complete an assessment during their junior year, not reach the minimum required score, then retake the assessment during their senior year and earn a proficient score. The student will incur the cost for any test retake.

**Q: Can students demonstrate proficiency in more than two languages?**

A: Yes. If a student demonstrates proficiency in English and more than one other world language, MOC-FV will note all proficient languages on the student's transcript.

**Q: What is the cost for the AAPPL (world language) exam?**

A: The cost is \$20 and this covers all four sections of the exam. MOC-FV will pay for the initial exam, and students will pay for any additional attempts.

**Q: How do I apply for the Seal of Biliteracy?**

A: A form indicating intent to participate in the language exam is available in the high school guidance office. The deadline to apply is March 31.

---

## MOC-FV Seal of Biliteracy Director

### Kayti Pfaffle

Address: 615 8<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Orange City, IA 51041

P: [712-737-4871](tel:712-737-4871) | E: [kpfaffle@mocfv.org](mailto:kpfaffle@mocfv.org)