

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) was established to recognize high school graduates who have attained high school level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English.

What is the purpose of the Seal of Biliteracy?



- ◆ Affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society
- ◆ Encourage the study of languages
- ◆ Identify high school graduates with language in biliteracy skills for employers
- ◆ Provides universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission
- ◆ Prepare students with 21st century skills
- ◆ Recognize the value of world and home language instruction in schools

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Resources:

NYS LOTE Learning Standards

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/lotelotels.html>

ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines

<http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012>

ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners

<http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-andmanuals/actfl-performance-descriptors-language-learners>

Ballston Spa High School

Seal of Biliteracy



Ballston Spa High School

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Who qualifies for the Seal of Biliteracy?

Students are eligible to attain the Seal of Biliteracy based on evidence of achieving the state-determined level of proficiency in English, as well as one or more additional languages, be that language a native language, heritage language, or a language learned in school or another setting.



Biliteracy refers to having a functional level of proficiency in each language; the level of proficiency is not necessarily identical for both languages.

Eligibility Criteria for a Student:

Students need to acquire 3 points in ELA and 3 points in LOTE

English Language Arts:

Completion of all English Language Arts graduation requirements and attain 3 points in ELA-

- ♦ **1 point-** complete ELA grades 11 and 12 with an average of 85 or better
- ♦ **1 point-** pass the ELA Regents Exam with 80 or better
- ♦ **1 point-** attain a 3 or higher on the English AP Exam
- ♦ **2 points-** successfully complete an ELA portfolio and student showcase

Languages other than English:

Demonstrate proficiency in one or more approved world languages other than English by attaining 3 points-

- ♦ **1 point-** complete LOTE grades 11 and 12 with an average of 85 or better
- ♦ **1 point-** attain a 4 or higher on the LOTE IB Exam
- ♦ **2 points-** successfully complete a LOTE portfolio and student showcase

Frequently asked questions:

Is there a cost to students for the Seal?

No. There is no fee.

What does a Seal of Biliteracy look like?

The New York State Education department provides a digital seal image to be placed directly on your diploma.

Is there a student application?

Yes. There is an online application process. Students can contact their language or ELL teacher for details.

Is there a different pathway for an English Language Learner (ELL) to receive the NYSSB?

Yes. ELL students should contact Mrs. Daniels (ELL teacher) or Mr. Brandt (Assistant Principal) for an individualized plan.

What information/work should a student portfolio contain?

The student portfolio must contain evidence of language proficiency at the ACTFL Intermediate High Level.

What is a student showcase?

An opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of their language skills and completion of their portfolio to their parents, staff members and NYSSB panel.