

# Global Seal of Biliteracy: Benefits to Heritage Learners

#YourLanguagePassport  
[www.globalsealofbiliteracy.net](http://www.globalsealofbiliteracy.net)  
 @GlobalBiltSeal

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## What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

It is a recognition or certification of an individual's language skills in two or more languages.

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## What is the impact of a Seal of Biliteracy?

"The Seal of Biliteracy becomes a positive incentive for individuals to increase their proficiency level to achieve personal outcome GOALS."

-- Language Magazine  
 October 2018 Issue

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## The Seal Highlights Language Learning

What do we learn from the research?

- Seal of Biliteracy programs increase retention, especially at upper levels
- Seal of Biliteracy programs are popular with parents & build support for language programs

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Mohamed Abdel-Kader,  
 Executive Director, Stevens Initiative  
 Former Deputy Assistant Secretary  
 U.S. Department of Education

"Language learning is a civil rights narrative . . . It's not a nice to have, it's an **essential**."

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## Only 20% of US Students are studying foreign language in school

Few U.S. students learn a foreign language in school

% of students K-12 in each state who are studying a foreign language

Source: Data from American Councils for International Education June 2017 report, "The National K-12 Foreign Language Enrollment Survey Report,"  
 www.achievethecore.org

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## What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

State Laws Regarding the Seal of Biliteracy

- Approved State Seal
- Under Consideration
- Early Stages
- No Seal of Biliteracy, Yet

A "Seal of Biliteracy" may be a:

- Seal
- Certificate / Certification
- Endorsement

How the Seal is awarded will vary from state to state:

- Level of proficiency / Seat Time
- Externally/ Internally validated
- Variety of tests used/accepted

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## State websites

GLOBAL SEAL OF BILITERACY

[www.globalsealofbiliteracy.net](http://www.globalsealofbiliteracy.net)

The Global Seal of Biliteracy website provides links to available STATE Seal and Department of Education resources, information, common test descriptions as well as research and articles regarding the Seal of Biliteracy movement.

<https://www.globalsealofbiliteracy.net/state-resources/>

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## Level of Language Proficiency

GLOBAL SEAL OF BILITERACY

- "Functional Fluency" (I-Mid)
- "Working Fluency" (A-Low)

Most states (25) use Intermediate-Mid as does the new Global Seal of Biliteracy

ACTFL

Time as a critical component for developing language performance

Novice Range	Intermediate Range	Advanced Range
0-100	100-200	200-300
0-100	100-200	200-300
0-100	100-200	200-300
0-100	100-200	200-300
0-100	100-200	200-300
0-100	100-200	200-300

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## What does it mean?

Higher Placement in college courses

Possible College Credit (cost)

Possibility of minor or double major

Study abroad earlier

\$\$ Savings

### ORAL PROFICIENCY LEVELS IN THE WORKPLACE

ACTFL Level	Language Function	Corresponding Proficiency/Workshop	Examples of Who is Likely to Encounter this Level?
Distinguished	9	Change Career/Relocate, Cross-Cultural Negotiation, International Travel, Multicultural Services	Senior executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Superior	8	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Advanced High	7	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Advanced Mid	6	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Advanced Low	5	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
High	4	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Intermediate High	3	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Intermediate Mid	2	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Intermediate Low	1	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Novice High	0	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Novice Mid	0	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars
Novice Low	0	Obtain a visa, conduct business, negotiate, and interact	Senior business executives, government officials, business professionals, researchers, scientists, and scholars

301,302  
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ACTFL AMERICAN COUNCIL ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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## Illinois Growth from 2015 - 2017

### Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy Report for SY15

2693 Seals (I-H)  
44 districts  
17 Languages

### Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy Report for SY16

4444 Seals (I-H)  
70 districts  
18 Languages

### Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy Report for SY17

504 Seals (I-H)  
15 districts  
10 Languages

<http://www.ilsbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Seal-of-Biliteracy.aspx>

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## Illinois 2018 Projections

### Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy Summary Report

The Seal of Biliteracy was established in Illinois to recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English (HS/SCS/SL/SLR)

Category	Value
7601 Seals (I-H)	83 districts
34 Languages	70 School Districts in SY17
34 languages projected for SY18	83 registered for SY18
4,444 awards in SY17	7,601 projected awards in SY18

Impact on ELs

<https://www.ilsbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Seal-of-Biliteracy.aspx>

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## STAMP 4S Program Evaluation

2014/15 – 9 (CEFR test)  
2015/16 – 61 (CEFR test)  
2016/17 – 66 (CEFR test)  
2017/18 – 104 (with STAMP 4S)

**482**  
Inaugural Polish STAMP 4S tests taken in 2018

- All 4 Skills
- Accepted in all Seal of Biliteracy states
- Accepted by Global Seal of Biliteracy
- Diagnostic score reports

Seal of Biliteracy Programs that accept the Asset STAMP 4S Language Proficiency Test

Legend:  
 [Green] STAMP 4S accepted  
 [Yellow] STAMP 4S accepted with conversion agreement  
 [Grey] STAMP 4S not accepted

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## Why the GLOBAL Seal of Biliteracy?

**CREDENTIAL YOUR LANGUAGE**

The Global Seal of Biliteracy celebrates language skills in two or more languages. In the U.S., the Global Seal will verify English and one or more additional languages, and will meet or exceed the requirements of all existing state Seal programs.

**DESIGNED FOR EVERYONE**

The Global Seal of Biliteracy recognizes anyone interested in being formally certified for achieving a high standard of proficiency in two or more languages, however those languages were learned.

**DISTINGUISH YOU ANYWHERE**

The Global Seal of Biliteracy is your language passport. It ensures that you are recognized for your language achievement by schools, employers, and individuals across the globe.

www.globalsealofbiliteracy.net

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## Here are some of the groups that GLOBAL Seal of Biliteracy can celebrate and certify.

- ✓ Independent Schools
- ✓ Charter Schools
- ✓ Parochial / Religious Schools
- ✓ Private Schools
- ✓ Public Schools
- ✓ Heritage-Based Community Language Schools
- ✓ International Schools / Students
- ✓ Community Colleges
- ✓ Universities
- ✓ Continuing Education Programs
- ✓ GEDs
- ✓ Language learned at home
- ✓ Language learned online
- ✓ Study Abroad Programs
- ✓ Language learned living abroad
- ✓ Individual Adults
- ✓ Language Educators
- ✓ Individuals who want to add Language to Resumes / CVs

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## Closing the Gap "fluency"

Your language passport.

**ACADEMIA**

The Global Seal of Biliteracy enables students across the world to quickly validate your language skills to properly show you and your school.

**EMPLOYERS**

The Global Seal of Biliteracy allows employers to easily verify your language skills and be confident that you bring the valuable soft skills that all language learners

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## Global Seal of Biliteracy

- ✓ **Universal proficiency criteria**
  - Intermediate Mid
  - Advanced Low
- ✓ **Externally validated testing**
  - Board of Advisors (see website)
  - Inaugural qualifying tests are those most commonly accepted by state Seal programs
- ✓ **Measures all 4 Skills**
  - LCTLs may be exempted for access
  - Exceptions when not applicable

The goals of Global Seal include increasing:

- ACCESS** "closing the opportunity gap"
  - Anyone
  - Anywhere
  - Anytime
- AWARENESS** "building a new paradigm"
  - Acquisition is a journey
  - Asset Valuation
- AVAILABILITY** "providing resources"

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## Closing the Gap

### "functional fluency" or "workplace fluency"


Qualifying Tests & Requirements

NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS	MINIMUM PROFICIENCY LEVELS		COMMENTS
	FUNCTIONAL FLUENCY (FF)	WORKPLACE FLUENCY (WF)	
Assess STAMP 4S	Intermediate-Mid	Advanced-Low	All 4 components required. STAMP 4S is currently accepted by all state Seal programs.
Assess WorldSkills	Intermediate-Mid	Advanced-Low	Workshops in writing, speaking, reading and listening are used. Accessibility to Live Content. Tough language measuring Speaking and Writing.
College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Exam	3	5	AP Exams are widely accepted by state Seal programs.
International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level	4	5	IB Exams are accepted by many states (higher level only).
Language Testing International (LTI) Exam	III (or the middle)	III-IV	All 4 components required. LTI is currently accepted by all state Seal programs.
Language Testing International (LTI) Exam	Advanced-Low	Intermediate-Mid	All four skills not required.
Language Testing International (LTI) Exam	Intermediate-Mid	Advanced-Low	OR in ORL and WFL is accepted in combination by most states and provides comparability to most Common High Level exams. Some states require tests on all four domains. (ORL:ORL (LTI) (LTI) (LTI) (LTI))

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## How to Apply



1. APPLY
2. TEST
3. RECEIVE

- Complete the online school or organization application. (before or after testing)
- Test using a Global Seal qualifying test (see website chart)
- Upload or email copies of original test score reports to the Global Seal (individual or group)
- Create a candidate roster using a form provided by the Global Seal (double-check spelling of names)
- Receive your certificates for FREE in the mail

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## How much is the Global Seal of Biliteracy?



**free**

*\* The Global Seal of Biliteracy does not include the cost of testing.*

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## What does Global Seal provide?



Awardees receive:

- Global Seal of Biliteracy Certificate (suitable for framing & serial numbered)
- 2 embossed Global Seal of Biliteracy seals
- Option to purchase corresponding neck medals.

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## Why support the Global Seal of Biliteracy?

- Universal award that crosses stateliness
- Award will provide students with opportunities for advanced placement, college entrance requirements and transferable college credit
- Fluency levels aligned to ACTFL and European CEFR proficiency ratings



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## Challenges for Community Heritage Language Programs



- Few community language programs assess student performance or growth via external testing
- Available tests are difficult to locate or cost prohibitive
- Heritage language tests are not provided by public schools; this disenfranchises heritage language users from State Seal recognition.
- Heritage language schools are excluded from most State Seals.
- Few international tests are accepted for State Seal recognition.

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## Solutions for Community Heritage Language Programs




- External testing provides validation of language learning. This leads to respect, retention and the possibility of recognition.
- Participate in the Global Seal of Biliteracy program which is open to all learners, at any age in any type of language program.

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### Common Proficiency Scales

STAMP <small>(Standards Based Measurement of Proficiency)</small>	ACTFL <small>(American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)</small>	ILR <small>(Interagency Language Roundtable)</small>	CEFR <small>(Common European Framework)</small>	CBC <small>(College Board Continuum)</small>
	Superior	3	C2	STAGE 5
	Advanced-High	2+	C1	STAGE 4
8	Advanced-Mid	2	B2	STAGE 4
7	Advanced-Low			
6	Intermediate-High	1+	B1	STAGE 3
5	Intermediate-Mid			
4	Intermediate-Low	1	A2	STAGE 2
3	Novice-High	0+	A1	STAGE 2
2	Novice-Mid			
1	Novice-Low	0		STAGE 1

Test scores are correlated to US & European Standards

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## Community Heritage Language

### Further Support by the Global Seal of Biliteracy

- Build community support and public recognition of schools
- Registration is available NOW to schools who wish to award the Global Seal anywhere in the world for FREE.
- "Language Passport" – a *junior passport award* is being developed for elementary students to recognize and award language learning milestones and build program retention.



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## Adults and College Students can apply for a Global Seal of Biliteracy

- "Language Passport for ALL" – the Global Seal of Biliteracy has no age restrictions, so adults and college students can also be **certified** for their language skills.
- Heritage Schools can host "community testing days" for non-students too.



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## Resource Center

Advocacy -- Research -- Information -- Teacher Tips



RESOURCES



Use Social Media to Grow your Program

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#YourLanguagePassport  
@GlobalBilitSeal

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# Global Seal of Biliteracy

#YourLanguagePassport

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