

Guidelines for Issuing a Virginia Seal of Biliteracy

Part I: Legislation

HB 1351 and SB 916 (2015) direct the Board of Education to establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal of biliteracy.

Code of Virginia, § 22.1-253.13:4. Standard 4. Student achievement and graduation requirements.

1. That § 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows: § 22.1-253.13:4. Standard 4. Student achievement and graduation requirements.

E. In the exercise of its authority to recognize exemplary academic performance by providing for diploma seals, ~~the~~:

4. The Board shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal of biliteracy to any student who demonstrates proficiency in English and at least one other language for the Board of Education-approved diplomas. The Board shall consider criteria including the student's (i) score on a College Board Advanced Placement foreign language examination, (ii) score on an SAT II Subject Test in a foreign language, (iii) proficiency level on an ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) measure or another nationally or internationally recognized language proficiency test, or (iv) cumulative grade point average in a sequence of foreign language courses approved by the Board.

2. That the Board of Education shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal of biliteracy pursuant to this act in time for any student graduating from a public high school in the Commonwealth in 2016 to be awarded such a diploma seal.

Part II: Criteria

The Board of Education's Seal of Biliteracy certifies attainment of a high level of proficiency by a graduating high school student in one or more languages in addition to English, and certifies that the graduate meets all of the following criteria:

- a. The Board of Education's Seal of Biliteracy will be awarded to students who earn a Board of Education-approved diploma and (i) pass all required End-of-Course Assessments in English reading and writing at the proficient or higher level; and (ii) be proficient at the intermediate-mid level or higher in one or more languages other than English, as demonstrated through an assessment from a list to be approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.*
- b. For purposes of this article, "foreign language" means a language other than English, and includes American Sign Language.*

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Part III: Guidance

Criteria (i): pass all required End-of-Course Assessments in English reading and writing at the proficient or higher level

Guidance

Students should demonstrate proficiency in English by meeting English language arts requirements for high school graduation through whatever means are currently in place to document attainment of that requirement.

Criteria (ii): be proficient at the intermediate-mid level or higher in one or more languages other than English, as demonstrated through an assessment from a list to be approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Guidance

Students should demonstrate proficiency in a world language other than English through one of a range of approved language assessment options, including Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and other national or international assessments at a level comparable to Intermediate Mid on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines.

- pass a foreign language AP examination with a score of three or higher or an IB examination with a score of four or higher; or
- score 600 or higher on a Latin SAT II test (SAT Subject Test); or
- receive a rating of Intermediate Mid or higher on a nationally or internationally available assessment of proficiency across language skills based on ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines; or
- pass a foreign government's approved language exam, or a nation's high school level standardized exam in a language from a country in which the language is taught in school at a level comparable to Intermediate-mid or higher on the ACTFL proficiency scale; or
- provide evidence of success at the B1 level or higher on an assessment authorized through the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages; or
- provide evidence of attaining Level 3.0 or higher on the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI);
- provide evidence of attaining an Intermediate level or higher rating on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI:ASL); or
- if the school division can certify to the Superintendent that the test meets the rigor of a four-year high school course of study in that foreign language, passing a school division language examination that, at a minimum, assesses speaking, reading, listening, and writing in a language other than English at the Intermediate-mid proficiency level or higher. Any school division language examination offered as evidence for awarding the Seal of Biliteracy shall be approved in advance by the Superintendent for the purpose of determining proficiency in a language other than English.

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The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will maintain a list of acceptable national and international tests with qualifying scores for reference in awarding the Seal of Biliteracy. The list of approved tests will be reviewed on a regular basis and published on the VDOE website for use by school divisions.