



OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

## **District of Columbia Seal of Biliteracy**

The Seal of Biliteracy stands as an academic distinction, honoring students who have achieved proficiency in two or more languages upon high school graduation. Criteria for eligibility for this award may vary, as local education agencies (LEAs) have the autonomy to establish their requirements. The Office of State Superintendent of Education, Division of Teaching and Learning, offers technical assistance for DC public and public charter schools planning to implement the Seal of Biliteracy award.

## **Seal of Biliteracy FAQs**

### **Q1. What is the Seal of Biliteracy?**

The Seal of Biliteracy is a national initiative to promote multilingualism and acknowledge students' linguistic accomplishments. It signifies that a student has attained proficiency in English and at least one other language, whether it be a heritage language, a language learned in school, or through different life experiences.

### **Q2. Who can receive a Seal of Biliteracy award?**

In DC public and public charter schools, students can earn the Seal of Biliteracy through various avenues. They should demonstrate language proficiency via standardized assessments, alternative measures, or portfolios, showcasing their reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities in both English and another language. Each LEA defines the criteria for awarding the Seal of Biliteracy, ensuring consistency and fairness.

### **Q3. Who determines the criteria for qualifying for the Seal of Biliteracy award?**

LEAs are responsible for publishing clear policies and procedures for the Seal of Biliteracy, guiding students through the process, and ensuring transparency. These guidelines should outline the requirements for eligibility, assessment methods, and the documentation needed to earn the Seal, providing a roadmap for students and educators.

### **Q4. Where can I access resources to learn more about the Seal of Biliteracy?**

LEAs planning to implement the Seal of Biliteracy award should review the Seal of Biliteracy [guidelines for implementation](#) and explore resources on the Seal of Biliteracy [implementation materials website](#). Additional information for **DCPS** educators can be found on the [DCPS Seal of Biliteracy webpage](#).

Contact Santiago Sanchez at [Santiago.Sanchez@dc.gov](mailto:Santiago.Sanchez@dc.gov) if you have any other questions.