



Title: Guidelines for the FCPS Seal of Biliteracy Awards

Date: January 13, 2022

District Mission: To create a collaborative community that ensures all students achieve at high levels and are prepared to excel in a global society.

Imperative alignment: Excellent student opportunities, Excellent staff, Excellent schools, Excellent supports, and Excellent relationships

I. Background and Alignment to District Mission

The Seal of Biliteracy is a recognition earned by graduating high school students who have demonstrated a high level of language proficiency in two languages: English and any other world language. Students meeting or exceeding district set criteria will be recognized with a seal on their high school diploma and a notation on their IC transcript.

In 2017, Fayette County became the first district in Kentucky to adopt the Seal of Biliteracy district-wide. Since then, Kentucky has joined the [listing of states](#) on the national Sealofbiliteracy.org site through the June 2021 release of [KDE's Seal of Biliteracy](#) guidelines. Careful comparison of the FCPS and KDE guidelines ensures FCPS is meeting the expectations set forth by the KY Department of Education. The Seal of Biliteracy supports the FCPS mission statement:

- Implementation of the Seal requires **collaborative** work amongst world language teachers, English language teachers, and core content teachers in order for high levels of students' language growth to occur. In addition, collaboration with community members furthers student success and positively impacts the community.
- The Seal encourages **all** students, both traditional world language learners (English as their first language) and English Learners, to develop functional language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing with the goal of biliteracy.
- The Seal of Biliteracy requires the demonstration of a **high level** of language proficiency, both academic and social, in English **and** another world language. A rigorous curriculum, delivered by effective instructional strategies, is essential for student demonstration and achievement of such high language skills.
- Students demonstrating biliteracy are more prepared linguistically to **excel** in a community with over 175 reported languages and in a state with over \$27 billion in global economy.

- Students acquiring a second language have increased cognitive development, higher-order thinking, better attention and task-switching capabilities, strong decoding skills, and creativity making them well prepared for a 21st century, **global** society.

II. Award

By recommendation of the Seal of Biliteracy Committee, FCPS will recognize any graduating student who applies and meets the set requirements for the FCPS Seal of Biliteracy.

Seal of Biliteracy Award

Students earning the Seal of Biliteracy will receive the following forms of recognition: a FCPS Seal of Biliteracy emblem on their high school diploma (see below), a Seal of Biliteracy certificate, a dual-colored cord* (green and blue), and a notation on their IC transcript stating attainment of the Seal (upon request).



(FCPS Seal of Biliteracy)

*Wearing of the Seal of Biliteracy cord at graduation must be in compliance with the student's high school regalia guidelines.

Award Eligibility

Any student is eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy, regardless of language backgrounds, the route in which the languages were acquired, or any identified condition that may exclude demonstration of language proficiency in one or more of the required modes of communication.

Demonstrated language proficiency in **English** must occur in **two** ways:

- Meeting all language arts requirements for high school graduation
AND
- Earning a minimum score of an 18 on the ACT English and a 20 on the ACT Reading test **or** a 22 on the SAT Writing and Language test and 24 on the SAT Reading demonstrating college readiness
OR
- Earning a minimum score of 3.0 on an AP English Language & Composition or AP English Literature and Composition exam
OR
- Earning a minimum score of 4.0 on the ACCESS exam.

Qualifying scores **for the English** requirement may come from testing occurring at **any point prior to application**; thus, there is not a time constraint (ex. ACT from sophomore year, ACCESS score from middle school, etc. may be used).

Demonstrated language proficiency in a **second world language**** (other than English) must occur through proficiency testing in all applicable modes of communication in **one** of the following ways.

- Earning a minimum of Intermediate-Mid (IM) in Interpretive Listening (IL), Interpersonal Speaking (IS), Presentational Writing (PW), **and** Interpretive Reading (IR) as reported by the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) measure or the Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP4S) [like assessments will be used as available for less commonly learned languages with a B1-CEFR rating]
- OR**
- Earning a minimum score of **3.0** or higher on an AP language-specific Language and Culture exam or AP language-specific Literature exam
- OR**
- Passing the FCPS District World Language Intermediate-Mid Benchmark Assessment (**to be used only for world languages that are not tested by AAPPL or STAMP4S in consultation with the District World Language Specialist**).

Scores **for the world language** component must reflect testing that occurred **after March 1 of their junior year of high school**.

**For languages such as American Sign Language, Latin, and Tribal languages, modes of communication to be assessed will be determined by the District World Language Specialist in keeping with National recommendations.

Anticipated Costs

Potential student fees associated with the Seal of Biliteracy will be waived for 2022 applicants. District world language funds will be used to cover the following anticipated fees:

- AAPPL assessment- \$20
- STAMP4S assessment- \$20
- District World Language Assessment- \$30
- Application fee- \$0
- Seal award- \$0

III. Responsibilities

School

Each high school will identify a Seal of Biliteracy Lead. This Lead will serve as contact for the District World Language Specialist and will assist in the dissemination of information to parents and students, identification of potential Seal candidates, organization of proficiency testing optimizing access, distribution of Seal results to students, and placement of the Seal of Biliteracy emblem on successful candidate's diplomas.

District

The District World Language Specialist will be responsible for the following: maintaining Lead listing, creation and distribution to schools of information regarding the Seal of Biliteracy, posting of information on the FCPS world languages' web page, application process, coordination of language proficiency assessment opportunities at each high school for languages offered through the AAPPL/STAMP assessments, creation and scoring of a proficiency assessment for languages not offered by AAPPL, determination of recipients for the Seal, notification to schools of recipients, engagement of community partners, maintaining master list of recipients, payment of testing, and reporting Seal data to the FCPS Board of Education, Superintendent and KDE (as requested).

For further information, please email [Laura Roché Youngworth](mailto:Laura.Roché.Youngworth@fcps.edu), world language content specialist for Fayette County Public Schools, or call (859) 381-4749.