The Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy

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The Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy (PASB) is an award given in recognition of students who have attained a minimum of intermediate-high proficiency in English and at least one other second language by high school graduation.

https://www.pdesas.org/Page/Viewer/ViewPage/57/

Why implement the Seal of Biliteracy?

The PA Seal of Biliteracy encourages students to be biliterate, recognizes students who are bilingual or multilingual and provides accurate documentation of proficiency levels for college and future employment .

PA Seal of Biliteracy

https://www.bsd.k12.pa.us/FiveGraduationPathways.aspx

- industry-recognized credential
- supports PDE's Pathways to Graduation as evidence in the Evidence Based Pathway (satisfies 1 of 3 pieces of evidence for graduation)

Objectives of the PA Seal of Biliteracy

- To encourage students to study languages
- To develop higher levels of proficiency
- To provide employers with a method of identifying people with proficient language skills

https://sealofbiliteracy.org/

- To provide universities with a method to recognize and to give college credit to PASB recipients
- To prepare students with 21st century skills
- To recognize diverse cultures and languages in a community.

https://sealofbiliteracy.org/

Who has approved the Seal of Biliteracy?

50 States + District of Columbia

Pennsylvania was the 46th state to adopt a Seal of Biliteracy

https://sealofbiliteracy.org/

- March 2022: PDE recognizes PA Seal of Biliteracy Toolkit

- June 2026: PA Seal of Biliteracy bill passes

2024-2025 PA Seal of Biliteracy

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1REh2D4jyxZr-mZ4koaZrKewUEDgAF-gh96IYvEj8VEw/edit?usp=sharing

49 PA schools districts (82 high schools) awarded the PA Seal of Biliteracy to 706 students in 46 different languages.

2024-2025 PA Seal of Biliteracy

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1REh2D4jyxZr-mZ4koaZrKewUEDgAF-gh96IYvEj8VEw/edit?usp=sharing

Another 575 students earned the Global Seal of Biliteracy for intermediate-mid proficiency.

2025-2026 PA Seal of Biliteracy

57 PA schools districts (90 high schools) awarded the PA Seal of Biliteracy to 743 students in 55 different languages.

2025-2026 PA Seal of Biliteracy

Another 554 students earned the Global Seal of Biliteracy for intermediate-mid proficiency.

How can I offer a Seal of Biliteracy at my school district?

Step 1: Adopt the proficiency criteria

based on the PA Seal of Biliteracy (PASB)

English proficiency criteria options

Option 1	Score Proficient or Advanced on Keystone Literature Exam
Option 2	English Learners earn a composite score of 4.5 or higher on the WIDA ACCESS exam

World Language Proficiency Criteria Options

Option 1	Score a “4” or higher on the AP Language and Culture Exam or IB Exam
Option 2	Score a “6” or higher on the STAMP4S Avant Assessment (ACE accredited)
Option 3	Score an “I-5” or higher on the AAPPL (ACTFL Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Languages)
Option 4	Score Intermediate High on an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Written Proficiency Test (WPT) in the target language.

World Language Proficiency Criteria Options-continued

<u>Native speakers</u> Provide transcripts from a school in a country outside the U.S. or in Puerto Rico in <u>grades 8 or beyond</u> showing at least <u>three years</u> of instruction in the student's home language indicating an average of final grades equaling 80% or higher.	

Step 2: Meet with administrators.

1. Explain the PA Seal of Biliteracy and its purpose.
2. Sell the idea by explaining the benefits for the students and the PR created for the school.
3. Discuss the process of implementing the Seal & costs (proficiency assessment-$20,medals, etc.)

Step #3 Gather data on possible candidates.

Consider the following groups of students:

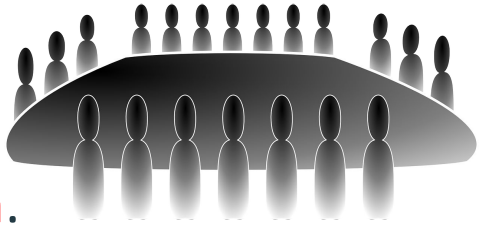
-EL students -exchange students

-deaf and hard of hearing

-students taking upper level world language classes (including classical languages and ASL)

Step #4 Meet with **juniors and seniors** who may qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy

1. Explain the Seal of Biliteracy and its purpose.
2. Poll students for their proficiency levels for reading, writing, listening and speaking in the target language/English.
3. Ask students if they want to take a proficiency test for the Seal of Biliteracy.
4. Schedule testing for the students no sooner than 18 months prior to graduation.



AAPPL (ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages)

Language Testing International (LTI)

https://www.languagetesting.com/aappl

LANGUAGES

Arabic • English • French
German • Hindi • Italian
Japanese • Korean
Mandarin Chinese
Portuguese • Russian
Spanish • Thai

AAPPL assesses 24 LCTLs using OPI & WPT

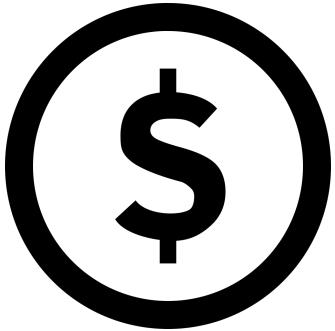
Albanian, Amharic, Bangla, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Cantonese, Croatian, Dari, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Malayalam, Pashto, Polish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yoruba

AAPPL Cost for Seal of Biliteracy Assessment

$23.75 per assessment + $4 extra per assessment for computer proctoring

Less commonly taught languages (LCTLs):

$55 for WPT/OPI



AVANT STAMP4S

$24.90 per assessment for 20-99 tests

$39.90 per assessment for 2-19 tests

$79.90 for 1 assessment

Computer proctoring additional $5/test

Codes are valid for 2 years

STAMP Test Languages https://avantassessment.com/stamp

Avant offers STAMP assessments in 56 languages and 98 LCTLs..

1 American Sign Language (ASL)	2 Amharic	3 Arabic (Modern Standard)	4 Armenian	5 Bengali	6 Cabo Verdean	7 Cantonese
8 Chaldean (Speaking only)	9 Chin (Hakha)	10 Chuukese	11 Czech	12 English	13 Filipino (Tagalog)	14 French
15 German	16 Greek	17 Haitian Creole	18 Hawaiian ('Ōlelo Hawai'i)	19 Hebrew	20 Hindi	21 Hmong
22 Ilocano	23 Italian	24 Japanese	25 Kannada	26 Khmer	27 Korean	28 Latin
29 Mandarin (Simplified)	30 Mandarin (Traditional)	31 Marathi	32 Marshallese	33 Nepali	34 Pashto	35 Persian-Farsi
36 Polish	37 Portuguese (Brazilian)	38 Punjabi	39 Russian	40 Samoan	41 Somali Maay Maay	42 Somali Maxaa
43 Spanish	44 Swahili	45 Tamil	46 Telugu	47 Thai	48 Tigrinya	49 Turkish
50 Ukrainian	51 Urdu	52 Vietnamese	53 Yoruba	54 Yup'ik	55 Zomi	

Step #5 English proficiency scores

1. Contact the guidance dept. for students' English proficiency on the Keystone English Literature Exam.
2. Contact the EL teacher to find out WIDA scores for EL students or to administer the WIDA.

Step #6 Testing proficiency other languages

1. If using the AAPPL test or STAMP 4S for the Seal of Biliteracy, contact the testing company for information.
2. AP world language students register for the AP test through the College Board. **Cost- $99**

Paying for Proficiency Testing

-Title III funds

-Educational grants

-School funds

-Students pay

Step #7 Compile the testing data.

1. After assessments are taken, give individual test results to each student.
2. Compile the data to determine who has received the Seal of Biliteracy based on criteria for PASB.

Step #8 Awards and PR

-Present a certificate and medal to each qualifying senior.

-Notify the school administration of the achievement.

-Contact local newspapers to publish the information.

-Invite state representatives to attend award ceremony.

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The Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy

is awarded to

for obtaining a high level of proficiency in English and _____
in addition to satisfying all high school graduation requirements.
We congratulate you and recognize your perseverance in achieving
the biliteracy skills necessary for the 21st century.

Presented by Mrs. Cherie Garrett
at Dallastown Area High School
on March 15, 2022

123Certificates

PA Seal of Biliteracy medal

https://www.crownawards.com/2%22_Victor_Dual_Finish_Medals.Custom_Medals.2%22_Victor_Dual_Finish_Medals/CM42BKCUSRG.html?cgid=all

Official PA Seal of Biliteracy Logo

Schools or school entities may request the PASB logo electronically from PDE to create seals for awards or certificates.

Greensburg Salem Seniors Earn Biliteracy Award

Step #9 Official documentation

- **Add the PASB to the students' high school transcript in the "Notes" section**

Credential: PA Seal of Biliteracy

Earned in: _____ (language/s)

Proficiency level: _____

Assessment used: _____

Date awarded: _____

What about seniors who don't get AP test results until July?

- Option 1: Have a brief award ceremony for A.P. students who earned the Seal of Biliteracy
- Option 2: Have a virtual award ceremony
- Option 3: Send the certificate and medal through the mail

Global Seal of Biliteracy

https://theglobalseal.com/

The Global Seal of Biliteracy certifies one's language proficiency in two or more languages and can be used as a credential for academic and employment purposes across state lines and national borders with a unique serial-numbered document. Anyone can apply for the Global Seal of Biliteracy once they have official documentation of intermediate-mid proficiency or higher in any two languages.

Did you know that...?

25% of Global Seal certificates are issued by colleges and universities to their own students

Why? To celebrate language proficiency

To certify level proficiency in 4 areas

https://theglobalseal.com/

Global Seal of Biliteracy
3 levels of proficiency

- Functional-intermediate mid(AP “3 or 4”)
- Working - advanced low (AP “5”)
- Professional Fluency - advanced high

Type of Seal	PA Seal of Biliteracy	Global Seal of Biliteracy
Candidates	High school graduates	Anyone (young learners, college students, homeschoolers, adults, etc.)
Proficiency level	Intermediate high to advanced high	3 levels: intermediate mid, advanced low, advanced high
Area of recognition	State of PA	World-wide
Cost	$25 AAPPL/STAMP4S test for Seal of Biliteracy OPI/WPT cost varies ($55-$200)	Application for seal is free once test results proving proficiency are submitted Test costs (same as PA Seal of Biliteracy)
Languages	English & a second language	Any two languages

2027 Reporting Form for the Seal of Biliteracy

PDE & PSMLA will track schools offering the Seal of Biliteracy (Global and PA)

Links and Resources to Seal of Biliteracy

PSMLA webpage ->

Advocacy tab ->

PA Seal of Biliteracy

https://psmla.org/seal-biliteracy

What questions do you have?

Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association

PSMLA Advocacy Chair

Mrs. Cherie Garrett

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Information for Institutions of Higher Education

Award College Credit for Seal of Biliteracy

- Attract students to your institution.
- Increase number of students in upper-level language courses.
- Increase number of students majoring or minoring in languages.

How many credits would students earn for the PA Seal of Biliteracy?

The minimum proficiency for the PA Seal of Biliteracy is intermediate-high which equates to a “4” on the AP Language & Culture Exam.

If a student has advanced-low proficiency, this is equivalent to a “5” on the AP Language & Culture Exam.

Common concern

Concern: PASB recipients won’t need to take WL at college.

Findings: Seal of Biliteracy recipients are more likely to major or minor in a world language course at college.

To incentivize world language studies to incoming freshmen…

- Require that they complete at least one upper level language course at college before giving college credit for the PASB
- Encourage students to minor or major in the world language
- Meet with them to explain the connection between world languages & other disciplines and the link to career fields

Course Offerings at Universities

Develop upper level world language courses linked to career pathways to meet the needs of PASB students.