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Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

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Action Required  
 Informational

## BULLETIN NO. 042-21 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
Educational Service District Assistant Superintendents  
High School Principals

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Seal of Biliteracy for the Class of 2021

CONTACT: Veronica Trapani, World Languages Program Supervisor  
360-725-6129, [veronica.trapani@k12.wa.us](mailto:veronica.trapani@k12.wa.us)

## PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Washington state Seal of Biliteracy recognizes public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. In order to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must demonstrate proficiency in English and in one or more world languages. English proficiency must be demonstrated by meeting the statewide minimum graduation requirements in English established by the State Board of Education under [RCW 28A.230.090](#) and by meeting the state standard on the English language arts assessment ([RCW 28A.300.575](#), [WAC 392-410-350](#)).

## REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING THE SEAL OF BILITERACY CLASS OF 2021

In order to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must demonstrate proficiency in English and in one or more world languages. English proficiency must be demonstrated by meeting the statewide minimum graduation requirements in English established by the State Board of Education under Section 201(1)(b) of E2SHB 1599 ([RCW 28A.655.250](#)). For Tribal languages, honoring tribal sovereignty, tribal consultation and government to government relationships between Tribes and districts, each Tribe determines the level of proficiency students need in order to be considered biliterate. Tribes develop the methods and processes for determining

proficiency in their respective Tribal languages. Teachers who instruct Tribal languages must be certified through the First Peoples' Language, Culture, and Oral Traditions Certification Program ([WAC 181-78A-700](#)). Affirmation that students have successfully earned the Seal of Biliteracy for Tribal languages follow the agreed processes determined through consultation with each Tribe. For additional information, please see OSPI issued guidance.

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Veronica Trapani, Program Supervisor for World Languages and International Education at 360-725-6129 or email [veronica.trapani@k12.wa.us](mailto:veronica.trapani@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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CR:vt

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