



## *Biliteracy Seal*

**1. Purpose:**

Implement [RCW 28A.300.575](#) by providing technical assistance to support districts to help students earn the Seal of Biliteracy (Seal). The Washington State Seal of Biliteracy was established to recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English. [WAC 392-415-070](#) (mandatory high school transcript contents) and [WAC 392-410-350](#) (Seal of Biliteracy) pertain to the Seal of Biliteracy.

**2. Description of services provided:**

This proviso enables OSPI to dedicate staff time to aid districts interested in helping students earn the Seal of Biliteracy. Four thousand, five hundred thirty-six students in one hundred fourteen districts earned the Seal in eighty-one languages in SY 2021-22.

**3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Technical assistance is available to all districts with a school board policy and procedure.

**Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:**

Number of School Districts:	114
Number of Schools:	N/A
Number of Students:	4,536
Number of Educators:	N/A
Other:	N/A <i>[Enter total number of school districts]</i>

**Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0**

**Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0**

<b>FY22 Funding:</b>	<b>State Appropriation:</b>	\$10,000
	<b>Federal Appropriation:</b>	\$0

Other Fund Sources:	\$0
TOTAL (FY22)	\$10,000

**4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

No

**5. State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY22	\$10,000	\$0
FY21	\$10,000	\$8,418
FY20	\$10,000	\$4,436
FY19	\$10,000	\$7,292
FY18	\$10,000	\$5,473

**6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of Districts
FY22	114
FY21	99
FY20	88
FY19	98
FY18	81

**7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

This year, WAC 410-392-350 Seal of Biliteracy underwent a rules change. The rule change was adopted March 10, 2022. This change formally aligned the English requirements to RCW 28A.655.250, which no longer requires students to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Students must now meet graduation ELA requirements for their chosen pathway to prove English proficiency. Waivers are accepted for those students affected by the pandemic. OSPI sent out a bulletin on April 1, 2022 to alert districts and ESDs of this rule change. The OSPI World Languages website also has the full language of the bulletin.

**8. Evaluations of program/major findings:**

The Seal program has been successful and well received in districts that have chosen to award the Seal of Biliteracy. The number of districts offering the Seal has grown every year and SY 21-22 saw the highest number of districts since the program's inception with 114. Students earned the Seal in eighty-two languages, which is one of the highest and most diverse in the nation. In a continuation from last year, three students earned the Seal in a Tribal language (Yakima).

Beginning in August 2022, OSPI held a total of ten professional development webinars aimed at helping district personnel correctly input Seal-related information into student information systems to ensure the highest quality data.

## 9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

While the number of districts awarding at least one Seal has grown from ninety-nine to one-hundred fourteen, there are still forty-six districts (excluding K-8 only) that did not have a student earn a Seal. As an opt-in program, districts are not required to have adopted a policy. This leaves thousands of students not able to earn a Seal of Biliteracy even if they do have the language skills.

Another challenge is the lack of infrastructure between districts to host language proficiency testing. Testing might happen only once a year because of the coordination involved with proctoring proficiency testing and districts are unable or unwilling to accommodate students from other districts.

A further long-running problem is district officials not reporting the results of Seal testing correctly. The data is missing. Seattle Public Schools and Spokane only reported one Seal earned. OSPI continues to reach out to support these districts.

## 10. **Future opportunities:**

OSPI invested \$5K of the \$10K in SY 21-22 in supporting Super Less Commonly Taught/Tested Languages (Super LCTLs) with Custom Testing. This was a contract between OSPI and Avant Assessment. Through this testing, additional languages such as students earned the Seal of Biliteracy in Shona, Malayalam, Balochi. As the program grows, more languages will be necessary.

Another opportunity is the expansion of the Seal to allow for more levels. Other states, such as Tennessee and Minnesota, have two levels for their Seals: one at the Intermediate level and the other at Advanced. Expanding the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy to a Gold and then a Platinum is a way to honor higher language levels as well as motivate students to continue their language learning past the Intermediate level.

Minnesota also has an agreement with its public universities and community colleges where students may earn dual credit by earn either level of their Biliteracy Seal. This type of program expansion provides better language equity and can potentially build up greater language programs at the postsecondary level by allowing incoming students to move to more advanced classes.

## 11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 501(4)(d) - Districts shall annually report to the office of the superintendent of public instruction on: (A) The annual number of graduating high school seniors within the district earning the Washington state seal of biliteracy provided in [RCW 28A.300.575](#); and (B) the number of high school students earning competency-based high school credits for world languages by demonstrating proficiency in a language other than English. The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall provide a summary report to the office of the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1st of each year.

## 12. Other relevant information:

The top five languages in which graduating seniors earned the Seal of Biliteracy are Spanish, Russian, Chinese-Mandarin, French, and Vietnamese.

Top 5 Languages	Student Count
Spanish	2738
Russian	243
Chinese - Mandarin	157
French	149
Vietnamese	118

## 13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

## 14. Program Contact Information:

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