



# Washington Office of Superintendent of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## Seal of Biliteracy

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 provide assistance to districts interested in helping students earn the Seal of Biliteracy. Students in eighty-eight districts earned the Seal in 2019-20.

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

Technical assistance is available to all districts.

**Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:**

<b>Number of School Districts:</b>	Any
<b>Number of Schools:</b>	NA
<b>Number of Students:</b>	3,407
<b>Number of Educators:</b>	NA
<b>Other:</b> <i>Name other...</i>	NA

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

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

<b>FY20 Funding: State Appropriation:</b>	\$10,000
<b>Federal Appropriation:</b>	\$0
<b>Other fund sources:</b>	\$0
<b>TOTAL (FY20)</b>	\$10,000

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

- No
- Yes, please explain.

*If state funds are not available, the state will not be eligible...*

5. **State funding history:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
FY20	\$10,000	\$4,436
FY19	\$10,000	\$7,292
FY18	\$10,000	\$5,473
FY17	\$10,000	\$4,468
FY16	\$15,000	\$10,277
FY15	\$21,000	\$16,856

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

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
FY20	3,407
FY19	3,097
FY18	1,978
FY17	1,660
FY16	2,108
FY15	662 (est.)

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

The number of students earning the Seal has gradually increased in the last four years.

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

The program has been successful and well received in districts that have chosen to award the Seal of Biliteracy, with the number of students earning the Seal doubling since FY 2017.

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

For some students, testing fees for world language competency-based testing continue to be a barrier; not all districts can support the cost of testing for their students.

The closure of Washington schools in spring 2020 due to COVID-19, and the suspension of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), impacted awarding of the Seal, as the SBA is the most common means for establishing English proficiency needed for the Seal. OSPI offered alternative strategies to assess proficiency, including recommendations that districts consider approaches that mirrored the English language criteria specified in the graduation

pathways outlined in Section 201 of [House Bill 1599](#) (2019). Despite those challenges, more students earned the Seal in FY 20 than in prior years.

10. **Future opportunities:**

While students of Native and Tribal languages are able to apply for the Seal of Biliteracy, none have done so. In order to increase that number, OSPI staff in World Languages and the Office of Native Education are collaborating on strategies to increase access for students skilled in Tribal languages to earn the Seal.

Similarly, OSPI is developing strategies for working with migrant communities to increase the number of migrant students earning the Seal.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 6168, Sec. 501 (4)(e) \$10,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$10,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for chapter 102, Laws of 2014 (biliteracy seal).

12. **Other relevant information:**

More than 73% of tests taken to earn the mandatory minimum four world language credits for the Seal are in Spanish. The other “Top 5 Languages Tested:” Chinese-Mandarin, Russian, French, and Vietnamese

Top 5 world languages tested	Student Count	Proportion
Spanish	1946	73.9%
Chinese-Mandarin	206	7.8%
Russian	197	7.5%
French	189	7.2%
Vietnamese	97	3.0%
Total	2635	100%

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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