



## Preparing global citizens

*“Increasing global economies, a heightened need for national security, and changing demographics in the U.S. have increased attention to our country’s lack of language capabilities. Every call to action to prepare our students for the 21st Century includes offering them the opportunity to learn languages other than English and increase their knowledge of other cultures.”*

– Partnership for 21st Century Skills

*“Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience. The United States must educate students who are equipped linguistically and culturally to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad. This imperative envisions a future in which ALL students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language, modern or classical.*

*Learners who come from non-English-speaking backgrounds should also have opportunities to develop further proficiencies in their first language.”*

–World-Readiness Standards  
for Learning Languages

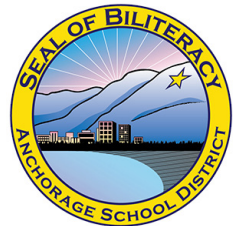


**Anchorage School District**  
Educating All Students for Success in Life

www.asdk12.org

## Anchorage School District’s Seal of Biliteracy

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by the Anchorage School District in recognition of students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The Seal encourages students to pursue biliteracy, honors the skills our students attain, and can be evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices. It takes the form of a seal that appears on the diploma of the graduating senior and is also documented on their official transcript.



The Seal of Biliteracy is designed to:

- Encourage students to study languages
- Certify attainment of biliteracy skills
- Recognize the value of language diversity
- Provide potential future employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills
- Provide colleges and universities with a method to recognize and give credit to applicants for attainment of high level skills in multiple languages
- Prepare students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in the labor market and the global society
- Strengthen intergroup relationships and honor the multiple cultures and languages in a community

*Biliteracy refers to having a functional level of proficiency in each of two or more languages. The level of proficiency is not necessarily identical in each language.*

### Criteria for the Seal of Biliteracy

1. Completion of all ASD graduation requirements (through the end of first semester of their senior year) and be on track to graduate in the spring; and
2. Completion of all English language arts graduation requirements for the Anchorage School District with an overall grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale (through the end of first semester of 12th grade year); and
3. Demonstrate proficiency in one or more approved\* world languages other than English:

*\*Current approved languages include: ASL, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish (additional languages tentative to be available by late spring 2017 include: Somali (Maxaa and Maymay), Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Yup'ik)*

4. For a complete list of languages and approved assessments, please see the table on back.

## ***Application Process***

1. Students may only apply during their senior year (unless on track for early graduation).
2. Interested students shall complete a Seal of Biliteracy application through their high school counselor to initiate a credit check verifying eligibility. Applications will be accepted annually after January 1, but before April 15.
3. The counselor will verify that the student has met requirements 1 and 2 (from criteria above). The counselor will sign the application form and will forward to the ASD World Languages Department via email: sealofbiliteracy@asdk12.org
4. World Language students will complete the Avant STAMP 4S assessment annually within the district's STAMP testing window; results will be added to the students' application by the Curriculum and Instruction Department when STAMP scores are available.\*
5. Students who meet eligibility requirements will receive an official letter from the district indicating such.
6. The Seal of Biliteracy (by language) will be added to the student's transcript.
7. The student will also receive an official certificate from the district indicating the accomplishment of the Seal; and the student shall be issued an embossed seal to affix to their high school diploma.

\* Students not enrolled in a world language class (therefore not taking the STAMP test) may come into the ASD Education Center during scheduled open lab times to take a STAMP test. Students may also test at their home high school (contact curriculum principal to find out who the Seal of Biliteracy proctor is).

## **Seal of Biliteracy**

<b>Assessment Options</b>	<b>Languages</b>	<b>Minimum Score to Qualify for Seal of Biliteracy</b>
Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Culture Exam (College Board)	Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Spanish	4
Prototype Advanced Placement (AP) Russian Exam (American Councils for International Education - ACIE)	Russian	4
SLPI (Sign Language Proficiency Interview in ASL)	ASL (American Sign Language)	2+
Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP 4S) (Avant Assessment)	Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Spanish (Russian expected spring 2017)	French, German, Spanish: 5 (composite score/combined average of all 4 skills) (Intermediate-Mid) Chinese, Japanese, Russian: 4 (composite score/combined average of all 4 skills) (Intermediate-Low)
PLACE (Avant Assessment)	Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish	5 (Intermediate-Mid)
WorldSpeak (Avant Assessment)	Somali (Maxaa and Maymay), Tagalog, Vietnamese, Yup'ik (expected spring 2017)	5 (composite score/combined average of both skills) (Intermediate-Mid)
ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) Form B	Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Russian, Spanish	I-4 (Intermediate Mid)
DSD (Deutsches Sprachdiplom)	German	B1 (Common European Framework - CEFR)
DELE (Diploma de Español Como Lengua Extranjera)	Spanish	B1 (Common European Framework - CEFR)
DELTA (Diplôme d'études en langue française)	French	B1 (Common European Framework - CEFR)
International Baccalaureate (IB)		Standard Level (SL) 6 Higher Level (HL) 5

***For questions or further information please contact Brandon Locke, Director of World Languages, at Locke\_Brandon@asdk12.org or 907-742-4848***

**[www.asdk12.org/worldlanguages](http://www.asdk12.org/worldlanguages)**