

Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy

World Languages

Department

Henry County Schools



What are the World Languages Curriculum's Goals in Henry County Schools?

The goal of the World Languages curriculum is to develop Georgia language learners with strong Interpersonal Communication, Presentational Speaking, Presentational Writing, Interpretive Listening, and Interpretive Reading skills in the areas of “Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.” Georgia language learners will be able to apply the World Languages skills acquired beyond the instructional setting in order “to bring a global competence to their future careers and experiences.”



Fig. 2-3-1 ©ACTFL

“Proficiency in a World Language adds a competitive advantage in all career fields”

Seal of Biliteracy

HB 879 was signed into law on May 3, 2016, establishing a Seal of Biliteracy for the state of Georgia. The Seal of Biliteracy will be available for graduating high school students starting in 2016/2017.

Law Text

- a) *There is established a Georgia Seal of Biliteracy to recognize 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.*
- b) *The purposes of the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy are as follows:*
 - (1) *To encourage pupils to study foreign languages;*
 - (2) *To certify attainment of biliteracy;*
 - (3) *To provide employers with a method to identify people with language and biliteracy skills;*
 - (4) *To provide universities with a method to recognize and give academic credit to applicants seeking admission; and*

(5) *To recognize and promote foreign language instruction in public schools.*

c) *In order to qualify for the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy, a high school graduate shall meet the following criteria:*

(1) Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above in those classes; and

(2) Proficiency in one or more languages other than English, demonstrated by passing a foreign language advanced placement examination with a score of 4 or higher or an international baccalaureate examination with a score of 5 or higher; provided, however, that for languages in which an advanced placement examination is not available, the Department of Education may provide a listing of equivalent summative examinations that local school systems may use in place of such an advanced placement examination.

d) **(1) A local school system participating in the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy program shall maintain appropriate records in order to identify pupils who have earned a Georgia Seal of Biliteracy and shall affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each pupil who earns such seal.**

(2) Local school system participation in the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy program shall be voluntary. No local school system shall be required to expend additional resources or hire additional personnel to implement the provisions of this Code section.

e) **The Department of Education shall prepare and deliver to participating local school systems an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the pupil indicating that such pupil has been awarded a Georgia Seal of Biliteracy.**

Henry County Schools World Languages Department

Recommendations for School Implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy

(Adapted from Georgia Department of Education Recommendations)

What are each school's responsibilities?

Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy will be awarded upon high school graduation and after students have met all requirements for the Seal. Schools that wish to award the Seal must designate a contact person at each participating high school. It is recommended that the School Counselor and the World Language Department Chair or World Language Teacher Leader collaborate with collection and verification of records from student applicants. The following are responsibilities of School Counselors and World Language Department Chairs/Teacher Leaders:

- Collecting applications from students in their senior year (World Languages Department Chair or Teacher Leader)
- Checking the qualifications of applicants including **completion of all English Language Arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above in those classes and World Language AP Exam score of 4 or 5 or if World Language AP course is not offered at the school, a district approved proficiency exam can be provided- *Note that AP Exam and approved proficiency assessments shall be funded by the student's parent/legal guardian (Counselors)**
- Awarding qualified students with the Seal (GA DOE and School)
- Reporting students that were awarded the Seal to GA DOE through data collection on report sheet by May 1 to Patrick Wallace, World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives Program

Specialist: pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us in order to obtain the seals. **For students, whose AP scores are reported back in July, please submit the form by September 1 to receive the Seal after graduation. (Select one- School Administrator/Counselor/WL Department Chair)**

- Once all requirements are submitted and verified, the Seal will be sent by GA DOE, and can be added to the high school diploma and transcript as well as displayed on a certificate or medal awarded to the student. (Counselors)
- The Seal shall be noted on the high school transcript as this is the credential that is viewed by colleges and universities and future employers. (Counselors)
- Districts and schools are encouraged to make the awarding of Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy a prominent component at graduation and any senior award ceremonies. (Henry County Schools World Languages Department)

When and how do students learn about the Seal of Biliteracy?

- Counselors and World Language Teachers should provide all students and their families, information on Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy upon entering middle and high school settings so that students are able to organize their schedules and meet the requirements necessary to receive this honor.

Schools Reporting Qualifying Students to GA DOE

School counselors and world language department chairs/world language teacher leaders, please complete the **report sheet** found on the Henry County Schools World Languages Website and **submit by May 1 to Patrick Wallace, World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives Program Specialist: pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us in order to obtain the seals.**

For Seniors, whose AP and IB scores are reported back in July, please submit the form by September 1. The Seal of Biliteracy can be awarded retroactively if the required scores have been met [a minimum score of 4 on the AP World Language exam].

For more information with regards to the Seal of Biliteracy, please visit:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/Georgia%27s-Seal-of-Biliteracy.aspx>

Who qualifies for the Seal of Biliteracy?

ALL Georgia public school students are eligible to attain Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy based on evidence of **achieving the required level of language proficiency in English plus one or more other languages** during their high school years. To obtain this Seal, **students must demonstrate the determined level of proficiency in English, as well as one or more additional languages**, be that language a native language, a heritage language, or a language learned in school or another setting. **Some components for Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy may be completed prior to high school for some students (as with dual language immersion programs, English learners, and other populations).** The focus is on achieving the level of proficiency required for English and the level of proficiency required for one or more other languages.

The International Skills Diploma Seal (ISDS) & The Seal of Biliteracy

-The International Skills Diploma Seal certifies attainment of intercultural competencies and focuses on international education. It reflects progress along the pathway toward achieving the specified level of language proficiency for Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy.

-The Seal of Biliteracy focuses on language proficiency and provides a signal to businesses and educational agencies that the recipient has achieved, at minimum, a proficiency level of Intermediate High on the ACTFL Proficiency Scale.

Native and Heritage Speakers and the Seal of Biliteracy Recommendations

- **Native Language Proficiency Assessment** provided at the beginning of 9th or 10th grade or upon arrival to high school.
- Placement into **Honors Level 2 or 3 Spanish, French, or German (Depending on Proficiency Assessment score)**
- Placement into **Honors Level 3 or 4, or AP Spanish, French, or German (with teacher recommendation and depending on progress)**
- **Honors Level 4 or AP Spanish, French, or German**, or a language other than the native one if AP language course was taken in 10th grade (A third language counts as International Focus course for International Skills Diploma Seal)
- **AP Spanish, French, or German**, or a language other than the native one if AP language course was taken in 10th grade (A third language counts as International Focus course for International Skills Diploma Seal)

***It is strongly encouraged that Native Speakers take 3 upper level courses in their Native language or a third language of their choice in addition to their *credit in lieu of enrollment* in order to complete the World Languages Pathway, meet requirements for the Seal of Biliteracy and International Skills Diploma Seal, and meet the 2 year World Languages requirement for most colleges and universities.**

References:

Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/Georgia%27s-Seal-of-Biliteracy.aspx>

Georgia Department of Education Rules: Awarding Credit to Native Speakers in Lieu of Enrollment retrieved from GA World Languages Data, Policies, and Initiatives:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/World-Languages-and-International-Education.aspx>

World Languages Career Pathways information retrieved from:

[http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Documents/POS-World-Language-Pathway\[1\].pdf](http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Documents/POS-World-Language-Pathway[1].pdf)

Approved Language Proficiency Assessments for Seal of Biliteracy:

*Funds for the assessments must be provided by the student's parent or legal guardian.

Name of Assessment	Testing Organization	Minimum Passing Score
Advanced Placement World Language and Culture Test (AP)	College Board	4
Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), Reading Proficiency Test (RPT) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) or OPIc	Language Testing International	Intermediate High in speaking, reading and writing
Standards-Based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) Test	Avant Assessments	Level 6
ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL)	Language Testing International	Intermediate High in speaking, listening, reading and writing
ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA)	Language Testing International	Intermediate 4

Deutsches Sprachdiplom (DSD) German Language Diploma	German Educational Ministers Office	DSD Level 1
Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) French Language Diploma	International Centre for French Studies	Level B1 in speaking, listening, reading and writing.
Youth Chinese Test (YCT)	Hanban	Level 3
Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK)	Hanban	Level 3
Signed Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) for American Sign Language	National Technical Institute for the Deaf	Intermediate Plus
Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK)	National Institute for International Education (NIIED)	Level 4