



# Washington Office of Superintendent of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## Seal of Biliteracy

1. **Purpose:**

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. The purpose of these funds are to provide technical assistance to support districts in helping students earn the Seal of Biliteracy (Seal).

2. **Description of services provided:**

This proviso enables OSPI to dedicate staff time to support districts interested in helping students earn the Seal of Biliteracy. Students in ninety-eight districts earned the Seal in eighty-two languages in SY 2020-21.

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

Technical assistance is available to all districts.

**Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:**

<b>Number of School Districts:</b>	98
<b>Number of Schools:</b>	NA
<b>Number of Students:</b>	3574
<b>Number of Educators:</b>	NA
<b>Other:</b>	NA

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

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

<b>FY21 Funding: State Appropriation:</b>	\$10,000
<b>Federal Appropriation:</b>	\$0
<b>Other fund sources:</b>	\$0
<b>TOTAL (FY21)</b>	\$10,000

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

- No
- Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
FY21	\$10,000	\$8,418
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>
FY21	3574
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):**

This year, OSPI amended WAC 410-392-350 pertaining to the Seal of Biliteracy. The hearing was held September 21, 2021. This change aligned the English requirements with 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.

The rules for the language other than English portion of the Seal were not changed but clarified. While American Sign Language and Native, Tribal, and Indigenous languages have always qualified for earning the Seal, the new rules list these languages more prominently to ensure inclusion. It also more clearly states that the level of proficiency needed to earn the Seal is determined by each Tribe.

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. The number of districts offering the Seal has grown every year. In SY 20-21, students earned the Seal in eighty-two languages, which is

one of the highest and most diverse in the nation. For the first time ever, four students earned the Seal in a Tribal Language.

The program also needed updated guidance as to how to best implement the Seal of Biliteracy, as it has multiple steps. Therefore, new guidance was written explaining in better detail how to identify and contact potential students for assessment, how to schedule days for assessment, as well as how to correctly input data into student information systems.

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. While many languages have a nationally available assessment option, super less commonly taught languages (LCTLs) do not, and custom tests can be cost prohibitive.

Another major challenge is the input of data into the Comprehensive Education Data and Research System (CEDARS) system. As the Seal of Biliteracy can only be officially earned by graduating seniors, some data from certain assessments, such as Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate, can only be entered at the end of the school year. Districts who wait to input all of the data might not show up in the data query. While it is very apparent when large, diverse school districts do not appear, smaller districts might not be as obvious. This skews the data and gives an incomplete picture of the status of World Languages in the state.

10. **Future opportunities:**

While four students of Native and Tribal languages have earned the Seal of Biliteracy, more room for growth exists. 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.

OSPI is also working with registrars and district data coordinators to ensure that future data input into CEDARS regarding the Seal is correct, timely, and useful. This requires training of registrars and data coordinators about the differences between marking a student Proficient (has not graduated) and Earned (has graduated) when inputting the Seal data.

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

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1501 (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 78% 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.

<b>Top 5 world languages tested</b>	<b>Student Count</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
Spanish	2190	78.6%
Russian	183	6.6%
Chinese - Mandarin	167	6.0%
Vietnamese	132	4.7%
French	114	4.1%
Total	2786	100%

[RCW 28A.300.575](#), [WAC 392-415-070](#) (mandatory high school transcript contents) and [WAC 392-410-350](#) (Seal of Biliteracy) pertain to the Seal of Biliteracy.

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

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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