



Washington Office of Superintendent of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Biliteracy Seal

1. Purpose:

The purpose of the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy (the Seal) is to promote and celebrate multilingualism within the educational system. The Seal is awarded to graduating high school seniors who show Intermediate-Mid proficiency in both English and a language other than English.

2. Description of services provided:

This proviso enables OSPI staff time to provide directed aid to districts interested in helping students earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:

Technical assistance is available to all districts abiding by the rules of the Seal. ([WAC 392-410-350](#))

Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	131
Number of Schools:	292
Number of Students:	5,695
Number of Educators:	N/A
Other:	N/A

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

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$10,000	\$5,000
2022	\$10,000	\$5,000
2021	\$10,000	\$8,418
2020	\$10,000	\$10,000
2019	\$10,000	\$7,292



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Students
2022–23	5,695
2021–22	4,689
2020–21	3,634
2019–20	3,370

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

Last year, WAC 410-392-350 Seal of Biliteracy underwent a rule 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. After almost 10 years, OSPI updated the Seal insignia to be custom-designed for Washington. Previously the Seal image was a Creative Commons template found online.

8. **Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:**

As evidenced in the Beneficiaries Table above, the number of high school graduates earning the Seal has almost doubled in the past four years. The Seal is a very popular program and has expanded from seven districts in 2014 to a record-high of 131 this year. Districts have asked for comparative data to learn from their neighboring districts as well.

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

Most of the issues are contextual and situation based. Smaller districts need more support due to fewer resources at their disposal. Larger districts need help coordinating language test scores. All districts have benefitted from updated reporting procedures, but the internal reporting systems take months to change. Some students are testing proficient for the Seal as early as 6th grade, which means an expansion is necessary. Currently, the Seal is still only an award while in other states it can also be used for dual credit at state universities. Some assessments are more expensive for languages that have fewer tests available.

10. **Future opportunities:**

The Seal is currently undergoing a rules re-write which is focused on adding an additional tier to encourage and celebrate students earning a higher level of proficiency in one language or by earning the Seal in 2 or more World Languages. Another future opportunity is for public universities in Washington to award dual credit for students earning the Seal.



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

This is available in the state of Minnesota and has been very successful. Custom testing is now currently paid for fully by OSPI due to state funding and the goal is to double the number of test takers to 200 for the 2023–24 school year.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

\$10,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$10,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for chapter 102, Laws of 2014 (biliteracy seal).

12. Other relevant information:

More information can be found on the [OSPI World Languages](#) website.

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

[preliminaryfy23state-fundedprovisograntawardsupdated-42823.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

14. Program Contact Information:

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