

Old Capitol Building  
PO Box 47200  
Olympia, WA 98504-7200



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

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Action Required  
 Informational

BULLETIN NO. 039-20 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
Educational Service District Assistant Superintendents  
High School Principals

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Seal of Biliteracy for the Class of 2020

CONTACT: Kathe Taylor, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching  
360-725-6417, [kathe.taylor@k12.wa.us](mailto:kathe.taylor@k12.wa.us)

## PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Washington state Seal of Biliteracy recognizes public 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.

In order to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must demonstrate proficiency in English and in one or more world languages. English proficiency must be demonstrated by meeting the statewide minimum graduation requirements in English (as defined by State Board of Education WACs) and by meeting the state standard on the reading and writing or English language arts assessments (WAC [392-410-350](#)).

Class of 2020 seniors seeking the Seal of Biliteracy will still be expected to earn the four credits of English required for graduation. However, Class of 2020 seniors who had not yet demonstrated proficiency on the English Language Arts Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) may have been counting on the opportunity to take the test once more in spring of 2020. Because Washington schools could not offer the SBA in spring 2020, districts may establish alternative criteria for Class of 2020 students to demonstrate English proficiency for the purpose of earning the Seal of Biliteracy.

OSPI recommends districts consider alternative approaches that mirror the English language criteria specified in the graduation pathways outlined in Section 201 of [House Bill 1599](#) (2019). These would include grades in transition courses such as Bridge to College English or in English dual credit courses; grades of C+ or better earned previously in AP, international baccalaureate, or Cambridge international courses in English; or meeting or exceeding the scores established by the State Board of Education on the reading, English, or writing portion of the SAT or ACT, for those students who may have previously taken these tests.

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Additional information about the Seal of Biliteracy is available on the OSPI website at <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/world-languages/washington-state-seal-biliteracy>.

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Kathe Taylor, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching, at 360-725-6417 or email [kathe.taylor@k12.wa.us](mailto:kathe.taylor@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT  
Deputy Superintendent

Kathe Taylor, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
Learning and Teaching

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