

Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy

Guidance Document

My name is Mr. Patrick Wallace and I currently serve as the Program Specialist for [World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives with the Georgia Department of Education](#). To provide some guidance for you regarding the Seal of Biliteracy and the process for ordering these Seals for students, I have put together this brief information sheet along with a "Guidance at a Glance" document. (3rd page of this document). If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us.

Thank you in advance.

HB 879 was signed into law on May 3, 2016, establishing a Seal of Biliteracy for the state of Georgia.

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.

As of March 2019, the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy is available in nearly 100 languages. [Please visit our Seal of Biliteracy website for complete information.](#)

As stated above, in those schools where the AP or IB Language exam is offered, then students must take those exams in order to earn the Seal in those tested languages.

However, for languages for which there is no AP or IB exam offered at the school (such as Vietnamese, Tamil, Bulgarian, etc..) or if the school does not offer the AP exam in that language (Spanish, French, etc..) then students can choose from any of the Tier 2 tests (see page 2 of this document)

For more information on the tests themselves, please reach out to me or contact the testing agencies themselves. [Language Testing International](#) and [Avant Assessment](#) offer a number of common languages and for less common languages, check [ALTA Testing Services](#) (located in Atlanta) for availability. All of the tests in Tier 2 qualify for meeting the requirements for proficiency in the target language provided students meet the required proficiency level (intermediate high).

Once the school has verified that the student has met the proficiency requirement (via an authorized test) and is expected at graduation to also have met the ELA requirement (see above) then the school can submit and order by the May 1st deadline for the seals to be sent to the school. [They can do so via this link.](#)

Since the AP and IB exam results are not received until mid-summer, there is established an additional retroactive rewarding of the Seal of Biliteracy for seniors only. The deadline for submitting all requests for the retroactive awarding of the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy is September 1st. (Please note, this deadline is only for Seniors who are earning the seal via AP and IB exams. Seniors, who passed the AP or IB exams as juniors, sophomores or freshmen, will use the May 1st deadline as Seniors.)

Note: It is possible for students to earn the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy in more than one language. While only one Diploma Seal is issued, a note indicating the languages that the Seal of Biliteracy was awarded in should be included in the student’s official transcript.

Districts are required to make note of the awarding of the Seal of Biliteracy on the official transcript as well as include this information in their end of year reporting.

Again, please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Patrick Wallace

World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives

Program Specialist

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Chart of approved proficiency exams that meet the minimum requirement for Georgia’s seal of biliteracy

Please see the table below for approved proficiency exams and required minimum scores or proficiency levels.

Further clarification on these tests can be found on the GaDOE Website for the Seal of [Biliteracy](#)



	Test Name	Testing Organization	Minimum Qualifying Score
Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Language Exams SL or HL Language B exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Board International Baccalaureate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 5 (SL or HL only)
Tier 2 (When Tier 1 test are not available at the school for tested language)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPI or OPIc and WPT STAMP Test AvantWorldspeak ALTA Speaking/Writing Tests ACTFL - (AAPPL) ACTFL – (ALIRA) DELE – Spanish SIELE – Spanish Language DSD – German DLTIS - Bulgarian DELF – French Youth Chinese Test (YCT) HSK – Chinese SLPI – ASL ASLPI - ASL TOPIK – Korean Ellinomatheia exam (Greek) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language Testing International Avant-STAMP 4S Assessments Avant ALTA Language Testing Language Testing International Language Testing International Cervantes Institute Servicio Internacional de Evaluación de la Lengua Española German Educational Ministers Office Sofia University International Centre for French Studies Hanban Hanban National Technical Institute for the Deaf GALLAUDET National Inst. Internatl. Education (NIIED) CGL (Center for the Greek Language) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediate High 6 Intermediate High 1+ Intermediate High Intermediate 4 B1 B1 DSD Level 1 Level B1 Level B1 Level 3 Level 3 Intermediate Plus 3+ 4 Level B1

Seal of Biliteracy in Georgia

Guidance at a Glance

HB 879 was signed into law on May 3, 2016, establishing a Seal of Biliteracy for the state of Georgia.



REQUIREMENTS

All Georgia Public School Students are eligible.
 ASL and Latin students can earn the seal
 A student can earn the seal in multiple languages
 Further questions: pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us

Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above in those classes.

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, students may prove proficiency via the Tier 2 testing options below.

Important Timeline Information

Aug 1 – Sept 1 (*Reporting of Seals to be awarded Retroactively from previous year*)
Sept 2 – Oct 1 (*Distribution of retroactive Seals*)
April 1 – May 1 (*Reporting of Seals for current year Seniors*)
May 2 – May 30 (*Distribution of Senior Seals*)

Important Links

Biliteracy Seal Reporting [Link](#)
(Note – This link is inactive during distribution cycles)
Biliteracy Seal Info [Link](#) at GaDOE.

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