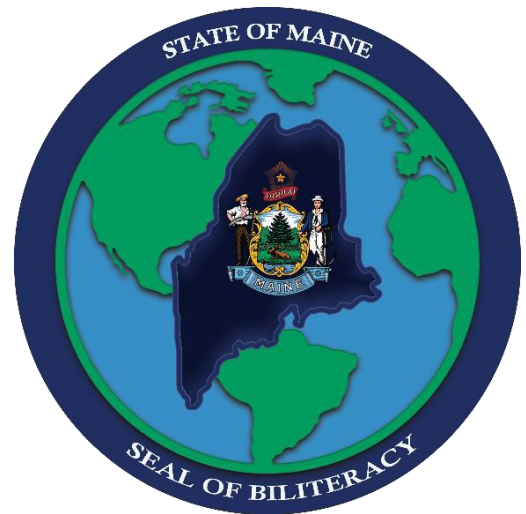


Maine Seal of Biliteracy
Coordinator Guide
2023-2024





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About the Seal of Biliteracy

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award that recognizes graduating students for having a high degree of skill in English and one or more additional languages. Nearly all states in the United States now offer this award, celebrating multilingualism and giving students an edge for their post-secondary studies and/or future careers.

Established in 2019, the Maine Seal of Biliteracy has been awarded to hundreds of students across the state, including students who speak or sign languages other than English in their homes and communities and students who have studied a language in school or other settings.

Until this year, students or their teachers needed to submit an application to the Maine Department of Education in order to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy. In order to streamline the awarding process and put greater control in the hands of students and their teachers, starting in school year 2022-23 schools will be awarding the Seal of Biliteracy to students directly, and no application will be necessary.





Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator

Each high school that wishes to participate in the Seal of Biliteracy must designate a local Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator. While multiple teachers or other staff members in a school may support students in earning the Seal of Biliteracy, the Coordinator will serve as the primary contact with the Department and ensure that all policies and procedures are adhered to by the school.

A Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator may be a world language teacher, multilingual learner teacher, school counselor, principal, or any other staff member.

Designate a Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator for your School



Awarding Process

Each participating high school will follow the process outlined below, ensuring collaboration between the Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator and any other teachers or staff members who may be supporting students in obtaining the Seal of Biliteracy.

Required Steps:

1. Read and understand this Maine Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator Guide.
2. Designate a local Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator via the [online form](#).
3. Schedule and administer language assessments, aligning to the required state-established Seal of Biliteracy [eligibility criteria](#).
4. Coordinate with school counselors to ensure that the Seal of Biliteracy is recorded on each recipient's transcripts, including the language(s) and proficiency level(s). (This step is **essential** to ensuring that credit can be awarded to students attending institutes of higher education that accept the Maine Seal of Biliteracy for credit.)
5. Compile data on your school's Seal of Biliteracy recipients in the [required spreadsheet template](#).
6. Submit the completed spreadsheet (in Excel or CSV format) to the Department via the [required secure online form](#) annually by July 30th. (Do not submit by email as the spreadsheet contains confidential student data.)
7. Ensure that parent/guardian* of each awardee completes the [Seal of Biliteracy Signature Collection Form](#) by July 30th. (*The student may complete this form if 18 or older.) This allows the Department to publicly recognize schools for supporting students in earning the Seal.

Optional Steps:

8. Print Seal of Biliteracy certificates and diploma stickers, if desired. (The Maine DOE will provide printable templates.)
9. Purchase sashes, ribbons, and/or medals for students to wear at graduation. See Appendix A for ordering information.



Eligibility Criteria



To be eligible to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must be in their graduating year of high school.

This year there has been a change to the eligibility criteria when it comes to demonstrating skill in English. Students are now considered to have met the requirement if they have fulfilled (or are on track to fulfill, as of the start of their graduating year) their school’s English language arts requirements for graduation.

For languages other than English, individual language domain (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) scores must be at **intermediate mid** proficiency or above, based on the [2012 ACTFL proficiency guidelines](#). If a given test does not provide individual domain scores, the overall score must be at intermediate mid proficiency or above.

Students whose primary/home language is other than English may be eligible for an exemption from the reading and writing domains if they have not had sufficient educational opportunity to become literate in their language. Students who are deaf or hard of hearing may be eligible for an exemption from the listening and/or speaking domain. For such students, the school’s Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator will determine whether an exemption is to be granted. The Maine Department of Education is available to advise in any cases that are unclear.

Language	Minimum Evidence of Proficiency
English	The student must have fulfilled (or be on track to fulfill, as of the start of their graduating year) the school’s English Language Arts requirements for graduation.
Additional Language	<p>One of the following:</p> <p>Tests Available in Multiple Languages (Click on the links to see languages offered.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score of 3 or above on World Language AP exam • Score of 4 on IB World Language Exam B SL or HL exam • Score of I2 or above on ACTFL Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) form B • Achieve a proficiency rating of Intermediate-Mid or higher on ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI/OPIc)** • Score of 5 or above on Avant STAMP 4S • Score of 5 or above on Avant STAMP WS (formerly WorldSpeak) • Score of 4 on National Examinations in World Languages (NEWL) • Score of 6 or ILR 1+ on ALTA Language Test



Language	Minimum Evidence of Proficiency
	<p>Language-Specific Tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score of 3 on American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) • Score of Intermediate Plus on Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) • Score of 5 on Avant Arabic Proficiency Test (APT) • Score of CEFR B1 on Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française/Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DELF/DALF) • Score of CEFR B1 on Deutsches Sprachdiplom I (DSD) • Score of CEFR B1 on Ellinomatheia • Score of 12 on the ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA) • Score of Silver (Maximum Cum Laude) on the National Latin Exam: Intermediate Reading Comprehension Exam • Score of 5 on Avant Spanish Heritage Language Test (SHL) • Score of CEFR B1 on Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE) • Score of CEFR B1 on Goethe-Institut German Exam <p>Additional Pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide transcripts from a school outside of the United States showing at least three years of instruction in the student’s primary/home language in 8th grade or beyond, with an equivalent grade average of B or higher. • For less commonly taught world languages and indigenous languages without standardized testing options, please reach out to the Maine DOE ESOL State Specialist to establish an appropriate measure of intermediate-mid proficiency based on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.

**Students seeking the Seal of Biliteracy through the ACTFL OPI may be required to show proficiency in other available language modalities using the ACTFL Listening (LPT), Reading (RPT), and/or Writing (WPT) tests.

Determining a Student’s Overall Proficiency Level

In order to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy, a student must demonstrate intermediate mid proficiency or higher in each assessed domain, according to the [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines](#), in a language other than English. Some of the permissible assessments, as outlined in the Eligibility Criteria section of this guide, provide an overall proficiency level score. Others, however, provide individual domain scores only. Also, not all assessments produce scores that are expressed in the same proficiency level categories as the [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines](#),

For assessments that provide scores only for individual domains, it will be necessary to determine the student’s overall composite proficiency level. To do so, follow the assessment-specific guidelines



provided below. If a student is using an assessment that is not represented here, contact the Maine DOE ESOL State Specialist to determine the overall score.

ACTFL Assessments

ACTFL assessments, such as AAPPL and the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), provide scores aligned with the ACTFL proficiency guidelines. (OPI yields a single score, which may be all a student needs if they have received an exemption from the reading and writing domains.) However, students who take AAPPL will not receive an overall proficiency level score. The overall score is to be calculated based on an average of the four domains: interpersonal listening and speaking (ILS), interpretive reading (IR), interpretive listening (IL), and presentational writing (PW). Remember that a student must score at intermediate mid proficiency (at least I-2) in each domain.

To find the average of the four domains, add the four numbers from each domain score (A-1 is represented as 6) and calculate the average. See the following examples:

	ILS	IR	IL	PW	Average Calculated	Overall
Student A	I-4	I-5	I-4	I-5	$4 + 5 + 5 + 4 = 20$ $20/4 = 5$	I-5, Intermediate High
Student B	I-2	I-3	I-2	I-2	$2 + 3 + 2 + 2 = 9$ $9/4 = 2$ (rounded down from 2.25)	I-2, Intermediate Mid
Student C	A-1	I-5	A-1	I-3	$6 + 5 + 6 + 3 = 20$ $20/4 = 5$	I-5, Intermediate High
Student D	I-5	A-1	A-1	I-5	$5 + 6 + 6 + 5 = 22$ $22/4 = 6$ (rounded up from 5.5)	A-1, Advanced Low

ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines	ACTFL Performance Scale	AAPPL Measure Performance Score	Form	
Advanced Low	ADVANCED	A-1	A	B
Intermediate High		I-5		
Intermediate Mid		I-4		
Intermediate Mid		I-3		
Intermediate Mid		I-2		
Intermediate Low		I-1		
Novice High		N-4		
Novice Mid		N-3		
Novice Mid		N-2		
Novice Low		NOVICE		



Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

AP Exam Score	Proficiency Level Equivalence
3	Intermediate Mid
4/5	Intermediate High
5	Advanced

ALTA

ALTA Score	Proficiency Level Equivalence
12+	Native
12	Distinguished
11	Distinguished
10	Superior
9	Superior
8	Advanced Plus
7	Advanced
6 (minimum score)	Intermediate- High

Avant Assessments

Avant assessments provide scores that correlate to the ACTFL proficiency levels. STAMP 4S and the Arabic Proficiency Test provide scores in each of the four domains, while STAMP WS (formerly WorldSpeak) provides score in writing and speaking only. The Spanish Heritage Language Test provides scores in vocabulary, reading, grammar, writing, and speaking.

To determine the overall composite proficiency score, find the average of all available domain scores. Level 5 in each domain is the minimum required score.

The numbers 1-9 relate to the ACTFL scale in the following manner:

Reading and Listening Level Key			Writing and Speaking Level Key		
Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced
1 - Novice-Low	4 - Intermediate-Low	7 - Advanced-Low	1 - Novice-Low	4 - Intermediate-Low	7 - Advanced-Low
2 - Novice-Mid	5 - Intermediate-Mid	8 - Advanced-Mid	2 - Novice-Mid	5 - Intermediate-Mid	8 - Advanced-Mid/High
3 - Novice-High	6 - Intermediate-High	9 - Advanced-High	3 - Novice-High	6 - Intermediate-High	
				NR - Not Ratable	



European Exams

For European exams that provide scores aligned with the [Common European Framework of Reference](#), use the following chart. B1 is the minimum required score.

ONE-DIRECTIONAL ALIGNMENT: Receptive Skills – Reading and Listening		ONE-DIRECTIONAL ALIGNMENT: Productive Skills – Speaking and Writing	
Rating on ACTFL Assessment (LPT, RPT or L&Rcat)	Corresponding CEFR Rating	Rating on ACTFL Assessment (OPI, OPIc or WPT)	Corresponding CEFR Rating
Distinguished	C2		
Superior	C1.2	Superior	C2
Advanced High	C1.1	Advanced High	C1
Advanced Mid	B2	Advanced Mid	B2.2
Advanced Low	B1.2	Advanced Low	B2.1
Intermediate High	B1.1	Intermediate High	B1.2
Intermediate Mid	A2	Intermediate Mid	B1.1
Intermediate Low	A1.2	Intermediate Low	A2
Novice High	A1.1	Novice High	A1
Novice Mid	0	Novice Mid	0
Novice Low	0	Novice Low	0
0	0	0	0



Frequently Asked Questions

When is the best time of year to schedule language proficiency assessments?

It can take several weeks or more for assessment results to arrive. It is recommended to administer assessments to students as far in advance of graduation as possible to ensure adequate time to go through all the steps of the awarding process.

Does the student have to be assessed in their graduating year?

No. As long as the language proficiency assessment was administered while the student is enrolled in high school, it can be used for the purposes of the Seal of Biliteracy.

Are sample tests available so students can practice?

The sample/practice resources available vary by test. Visit the links below for more information.

Tests	Links to Resources
AP EXAM	See College Board's site for specific language exams.
IB EXAM	https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/assessment-and-exams/sample-exam-papers/
AAPPL	https://www.languagetesting.com/aappl-demo
ACTFL OPI	https://www.languagetesting.com/oral-proficiency-interview-opi/
STAMP 4S	https://www.update.avantassessment.com/sample-tests#4S_Sample
ASLPI	https://www.ets.org/praxis/ct/aslpi/
AVANT APT	https://avantassessment.com/apt
DELF/DAL F	http://www.ciep.fr/en/delf-scolaire
ALIRA	https://www.languagetesting.com/actfl-latin-interpretive-reading-assessment
AVANT SHL	https://avantassessment.com/shl
DELE	https://www.dele.org/?page=dele/intermediate-mid-threshold-level
NLE	https://www.nle.org/Portals/0/Intermediate%20Latin%20Reading%20Comprehension%20Exam%202022%20FINAL.pdf



How much do language proficiency assessments cost?

There is a wide range of prices on the approved tests. It is strongly suggested to consult the websites listed below for the most up to date pricing and to choose one that is within your budget.

Tests	Link to Pricing
AP Exam	https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/takingtheexam/exam-fees
IB Exam	https://www.ibo.org/become-an-ib-school/fees-and-services/assessment-fees-and-services/
AAPPL	https://www.languagetesting.com/aappl
ACTFL OPI	https://www.languagetesting.com/oral-proficiency-interview-opi/
STAMP 4S	https://avantassessment.com/stamp4s/frequently-asked-questions
WorldSpeak	https://avantassessment.com/worldspeak
NEWL	https://www.americancouncils.org/newl-dates-deadlines-fees
ALTA	https://www.altalang.com/language-testing/faq/
ASLPI	https://www.ets.org/praxis/ct/aslpi/
AVANT APT	https://avantassessment.com/apt/faq
ALIRA	https://www.languagetesting.com/actfl-latin-interpretive-reading-assessment
AVANT SHL	https://avantassessment.com/shl
NLE	https://www.nle.org/Exams/General-Information

What if a student’s language does not have a written form, or the written form is not commonly used?

We recognize that not all languages and cultures are print-based. This does not prevent students from applying for the Maine Seal of Biliteracy. Students are encouraged to take one of the tests that will allow them to demonstrate their oral and verbal comprehension skills. If there is no test available, please reach out to the Maine DOE ESOL State Specialist to discuss alternative ways to demonstrate proficiency.

If the only standardized assessment available for a given language measures oral skills only, will we need to find another way for the student to demonstrate reading and writing skills?



No. If there is no standardized assessment available to measure reading and writing skills, the test of oral skills will suffice as evidence of proficiency.

Can a student earn the Seal of Biliteracy in multiple languages?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of languages for which a student may earn be recognized.

Can a student retake an entire test or individual domain if they did not meet the minimum score the first time?

Yes. Students may retake assessments as many times as they wish.

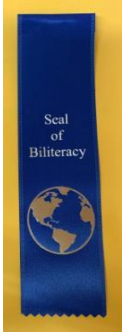
How can students type their responses for a language with a different alphabet?

Computers and other devices have keyboard settings that allow for many languages with varying alphabets. Students may also benefit from using a silicone keyboard skin for their language(s).



Appendix A: Ordering

Schools have the *option* of ordering ribbons, stoles, or medals for students earning the Maine Seal of Biliteracy from Norogala Show Ribbons/Northeast Trophy in Presque Isle, Maine. The Department of Education and Norogala Show Ribbons/Northeast Trophy have worked together to offer the same unit price to all schools, regardless of the number of items ordered.



*

Ribbon
Blue with silver print
2”x8”

\$1.50/unit

**Shown on a yellow backdrop*



*

Medal
Silver, Maine Seal of Biliteracy in color, blue ribbon
2 1/2” in diameter, 28” ribbon

\$4.50/unit

**Shown on a yellow backdrop*



*

Stole
Blue with silver print

\$10.00/unit

**"Seal of" on right side, "Biliteracy" on the left side, globe at the bottom on each side, pointed tips*

To Place an Order, Contact:

Norogala Show Ribbons/Northeast Trophy

Toll Free: 1-866-499-1450

Local: 207-764-0555

Fax: 207-764-0597

norogalaribbons@gmail.com

79 Fort Road

Presque Isle, ME 04769