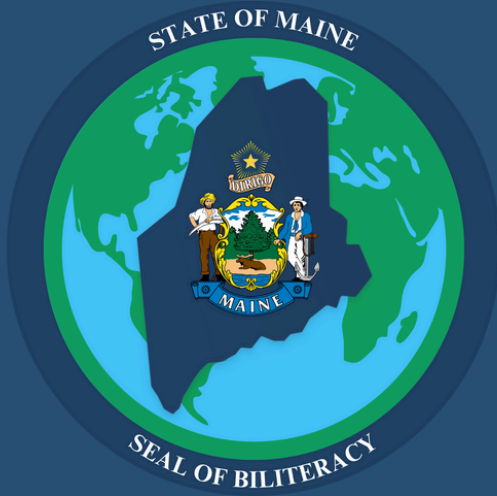


# SEAL OF BILITERACY STATE OF MAINE



The land that is now called Maine is home to a deep and enduring linguistic heritage. The ability to speak more than one language is not only an educational strength—it is a reflection of cultural continuity, identity, and connection to community.



**FRED RAVAN,  
SPANISH TEACHER & PRESIDENT OF  
EDUCATORS FOR A MULTILINGUAL MAINE  
(EMME)**

*"The Seal of Biliteracy is a **great equalizer among students** because it allows students to participate in languages who ordinarily would not. In fact, we're figuring out a way for us to offer the test to **all students in different grades** so we can track their progress in language achievement over the years."*



Students at Bangor High School  
2024-2025 recipients

## ABOUT THE SEAL OF BILITERACY

This is an official recognition awarded by the state and placed on a student's high school diploma and transcript to honor proficiency in two or more languages. It is available to all students, including heritage speakers who first learned a language other than English at home.



**BOBIN PARK, BOWDOIN STUDENT**

*"Being multilingual allows me to embrace my culture while expanding my perspective on the world."*



**PAULINA SARGENT, SPANISH TEACHER**

*"The Seal of Biliteracy brings well-deserved recognition to my students' hard work. We look to the DOE dashboard map and **feel proud seeing our small school being represented.**"*

## GETTING STARTED

Fulfill the following requirements to earn the Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation.

- Proficiency in English  
(high school graduation)
- Proficiency in a second language  
(world language assessment)

Submit your application to your school by July 30th. There are no additional fees to submit the application after you have paid and taken your language exam.

The credential celebrates students' language skills as valuable assets, affirms their cultural heritage, and highlights their readiness for college, careers, and global opportunities.

Ask your high school's Seal of Biliteracy coordinator for more information. It's never too early to plan ahead!



# BENEFITS OF THE SEAL OF BILITERACY

Students gain meaningful, real-world benefits from earning the Seal, beyond just passing the exam.

## 1. COLLEGE



### MAINE COLLEGE CREDIT

Most students' biggest motivating factor in taking the Seal was for college credit. Maine has 6 colleges that offer college credit in exchange for the Seal of Biliteracy (as of August 2025).

**University of Maine at Farmington**  
6 credits

**University of Maine at Orono**  
6 credits

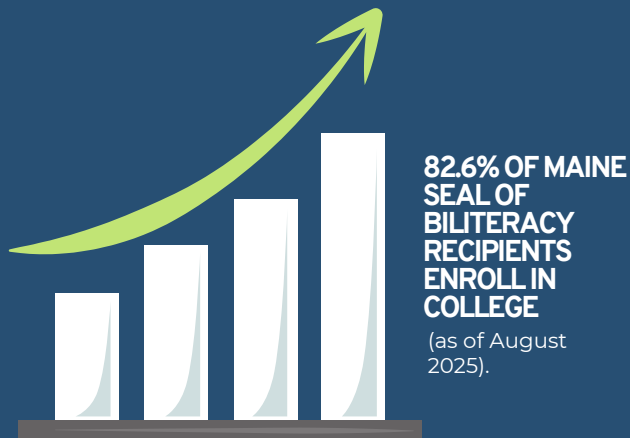
**University of Maine at Machias**  
6 credits

**University of Southern Maine**  
8 credits

**Southern Maine Community College**  
8 credits

**Husson University**  
6 credits

\*\*We recommend that you check with your college campuses if they only accept a specific exam.



### COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Apart from college credit, the Seal is an award. As college admissions get more competitive, this accolade is considered as a high-achieving credential by college admissions offices.



### UNIVERSITY OF MAINE FARMINGTON

LISA ELLRICH, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

Applicants with this distinction stand out as hard-working students who take advantage of an opportunity and reach a gold standard in language achievement. It also **showcases a side of the student that may not be evident** in a quick reading of a transcript.

University of Maine at Farmington celebrates these students during several festivals each year. We offer them ways to participate in **sharing their linguistic heritage with the campus community** and support them 100% of the way! We are proud of what they have accomplished and **want them to feel proud of it** as well.

Language learning opens doors to connection and cultural exchange —both globally and here in Maine — bridging communities and fostering collaboration across continents.

## 2. EMPLOYMENT

More employers are looking for job candidates who are bilingual to broaden their clientele. Bilingual students offer many benefits in the workforce, especially when in spaces that value communication with a broad audience.



### MAINE BUREAU OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Maine BHR accepts the Seal as a metric of language proficiency. Employees can also apply for the multilingual stipend to get paid to speak another language at the workplace.



AMELIA LYONS RUKEMA, CEO

### MAINE MOBILE HEALTH

“As an employer seeking bilingual candidates, the Seal of Biliteracy is a lifesaver! It offers an easy way to assess language skills at the level we need, saving us both time and money”.

Students can reference the Seal on their resumes, college applications, and job materials to showcase their multilingual abilities and stand out in a competitive world.

