



## Baldwin County Public Schools Procedures for Awarding the Alabama Seal of Biliteracy

### **Purpose**

The Alabama Seal of Biliteracy is an award which recognizes students who have attained proficiency in English and one or more other world languages by high school graduation. This designation is reported on the student's high school transcript and the student receives recognition for attaining biliteracy. Biliteracy refers to having a functional level of proficiency in each language in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

### **Rationale**

The Alabama Seal of Biliteracy certifies the attainment of biliteracy of students for employers and universities. It is a statement of accomplishment that helps to signal evidence of a student's 21st century skills, career and college readiness, and for engagement as a global citizen.

### **Qualifying for the Seal of Biliteracy**

All high school students enrolled in Baldwin County Public Schools are eligible to attain the Seal of Biliteracy based on evidence of achieving the designated level of language proficiency in English plus one (or more) other languages during their high school years. Students must demonstrate the state-determined level of proficiency in English, as well as an additional language (native language, heritage language, or a language learned in school or other setting).

### **Criteria for Awarding the Seal of Biliteracy**

1. Completion of Alabama High School graduation requirements
2. Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (see below)
3. Demonstrate World Language Proficiency (see below)

#### English Language Proficiency Criteria:

Both native and non-native speakers of English must provide comparable evidence of English proficiency, as determined by Alabama guidelines. A minimum score on **one** of the following assessments is required:

- ACT – a score of 18 or higher on English or 20 or higher on Reading
- Advanced Placement (AP) English Language/Literature and Composition Exam  $\geq 3$
- International Baccalaureate (IB) English A, English Literature A, or English A1 Exams  $\geq 5$
- WIDA ACCESS for ELLs– a composite score of level 4.8 or higher (non-native speakers only)
- ACTFL AAPPL Assessment – an Intermediate-Mid 3 or higher in all four components (non-native speakers only)  
This test can be used when the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessment scores are not available.

### World Language Proficiency Criteria:

Performance should be demonstrated in both social and academic use of the language. Students should demonstrate Intermediate-Mid level proficiency in another language based on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.

Attain the minimum score on one of the following assessments (administered by the ESL Department):

- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) Assessment - a score of Intermediate Mid 3 or higher on all components
  - AAPPL (*ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages*) assesses interpersonal listening and speaking, presentational writing, and interpretive reading and listening. The AAPPL assesses the following languages – Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.
  - ALIRA (*ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment*) assessment of interpretive reading.
  - OPI & WPT (*ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview and ACTFL Writing Proficiency Test*) assesses interpersonal listening and speaking and the presentational and interpersonal modes of written communication. The OPI & WPT assesses the following languages – Albanian, Amharic, Bangla, Bosnian, Croatian, Bulgarian, Cantonese, Croatian, Dari, Gujarati, Hattian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Malayalam, Pashto, Polish, Swahili, Tamil, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Yoruba.
- AP Exam in other languages  $\geq 3$
- IB Exam in other languages  $\geq 4$
- For all other languages (including American Sign Language): Refer to the Alabama Seal of Biliteracy Overview and Guidelines.

### **Awarding the Alabama Seal of Biliteracy in Baldwin County**

- The High School Counselor, ESL Resource Teacher, World Language Teacher, or School Administrator can assist in identification of students who wish to apply for the Alabama Seal of Biliteracy and provide them with the district application (google form). The student must complete the Seal of Biliteracy Application, to be turned into Stephanie Montiel (smontiel@bcbe.org).
- The below timeline will be followed as closely as possible to allow time for testing, make up testing, retesting (of no more than 2 domains), and portfolio submission (if needed).
- Once it has been determined that a student has met all of the requirements for the Alabama Seal of Biliteracy, then the High School Counselor, ESL Resource Teacher, World Language Teacher, High School Administrator, and Students will be notified.
- The student will be recognized for this accomplishment through annotation on their high school transcript and may participate in special presentations at graduation and awards programs.

### **Timeline 2024-2025**

Seal of Biliteracy Applications Open	August 8
Seal of Biliteracy Applications Due	September 27
Initial Testing Sessions	October 2 - 31
Make up/Retest Testing Session	November 4 - 22
Notification of Recipients to Schools	(no later than) January 31

*The ESL Department will coordinate testing dates, times, and locations with schools.  
The ESL Department will inform students (through student ibaldwin email accounts)  
of testing dates, demo test items, and software requirements.*

*It is the responsibility of the school to follow up with students and to ensure students are present for testing sessions. Make up testing sessions must follow BCBE attendance policy and procedures.*