



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 27, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: High School Principals, School Counselors, Bilingual/ESL Supervisors, World Language Supervisors
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services
Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

2020-2021 State Seal of Biliteracy Program

The 2020-2021 school year is the fifth year that the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will offer the option for graduating high school students to attain the [State Seal of Biliteracy](#) by demonstrating proficiency in English and one or more world languages.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the following modifications have been made to the process for students to demonstrate proficiency in English and one or more world languages:

- A student may demonstrate proficiency by taking an [approved world-language assessment](#) using parent/guardian proctoring, computer-based proctoring, or school-based proctoring.
- The scores from the Advanced Placement (AP) exam given in Spring 2020 cannot be used to demonstrate proficiency in a world language. The spring 2020 administration of the AP exam was truncated and did not assess all four language domains (i.e., reading, writing, speaking, listening) as required by N.J.A.C. [18A:7C-15](#).
- [Executive Order 214](#) (Murphy, 2021) waives the statutory graduation assessment requirement mandated by N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 *et seq.* for the 2020-2021 school year for any 12th grade student who has not yet satisfied the assessment requirement but has met all credit, curriculum, and attendance requirements for graduation. The district should submit a statement of assurance (SOA), which will be disseminated by the County Offices of Education, indicating that any such student has demonstrated proficiency in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards-English Language Arts through local assessment(s) administered on campus or virtually. For students who have not previously demonstrated English proficiency through the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment or ACCESS, the SOA serves this purpose. The district Biliteracy Coordinator should email their respective county education specialist for the SOA.

Students who attain this distinction will receive an NJDOE-issued certificate and transcript notation indicating the receipt of the Seal of Biliteracy. For information about the State Seal of Biliteracy and the criteria to receive this designation, please visit the NJDOE webpage ([Seal of Biliteracy](#)).

Please direct questions to the Title III & Bilingual/ESL Unit, Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at ell@doe.nj.gov or to the Standards Office at standards@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group