



N.J.A.C. 6A: 8-5.3 State Seal of Biliteracy Proposed Amendments First Discussion Wednesday, July 5, 2017

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Discussion Agenda

- What is the State Seal of Biliteracy
- Purpose of the Seal of Biliteracy
- History of the Seal of Biliteracy
- Resources
- Implementation Timeline
- Insignia and Seal



What is the State Seal of Biliteracy?



A **State Seal of Biliteracy** is a designation from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) identifying graduating high school students who are able to demonstrate proficiency in English in addition to *one or more* languages.

Participation is *voluntary* on the part of a school district.



Purpose of the State Seal of Biliteracy

- Encourage students to study languages;
- Certify attainment of biliteracy;
- Provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills;
- Provide universities with a method to recognize and award academic credit to applicants seeking admission;
- Prepare students with 21st century skills;
- Recognize and promote second language instruction in public schools; and
- Strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and language of a community.



National History of the Seal of Biliteracy

- The Seal of Biliteracy was an initiative started by Californians Together in 2008 to acknowledge and award hardworking bilingual and multilingual students.
- In 2011, it officially became legislation in California and now multiple states throughout the nation have implemented a statewide Seal of Biliteracy.
- In September 2016, New Jersey was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition by Former Secretary of Education John King at the Multiliteracy and Dual Language Symposium for participating in the Seal of Biliteracy program.



History of the Seal of Biliteracy in New Jersey

2013-2016 Pilot led by NJTESOL-NJBE & FLENJ*

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Districts	7	12	23
Certificates	185	341	727
Languages	10	14	16

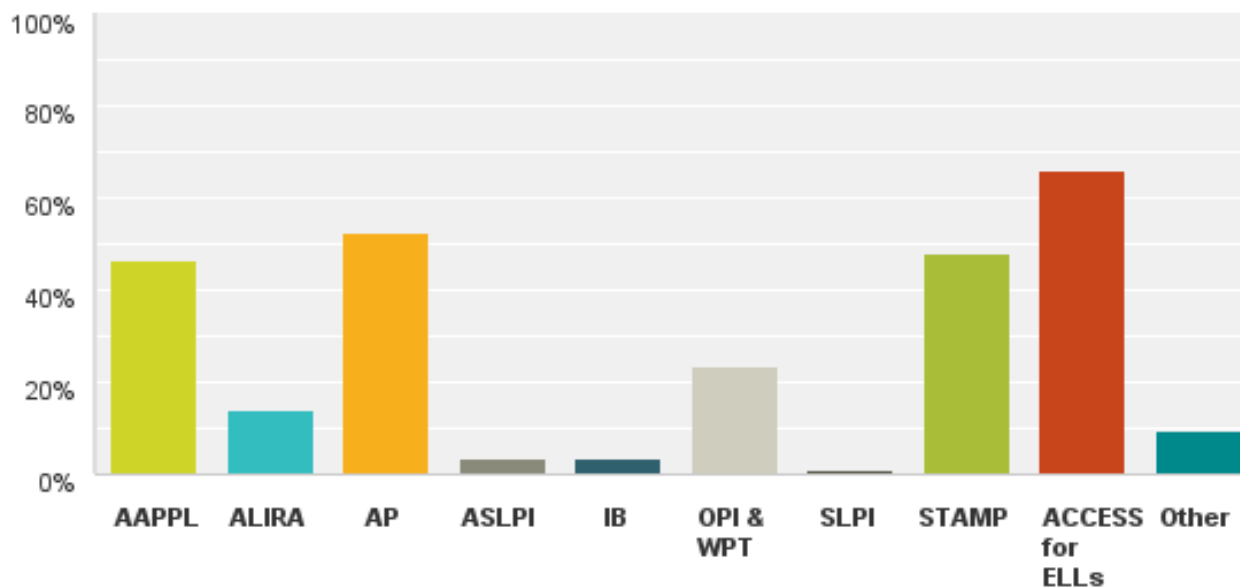
- On January 19, 2016, Governor Chris Christie signed legislation into law establishing the State Seal of Biliteracy.
- The legislation indicated that district implementation would begin in the 2016-17 school year.

* New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages –New Jersey Bilingual Educators and Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey



2016-17 School Year Participation

- 85 districts participated in awarding Seal of Biliteracy
- 2,013 Seals were awarded to students
- 20 languages were represented (with multiple students receiving a Seal in more than one language)



Assessment info and acronym details are available on the [Acceptable Evidence of Proficiency](#) document



Resources

- [NJDOE State Seal of Biliteracy Website](#)
 - Overview
 - Promotional Brochure
 - Acceptable Evidence of Proficiency
 - FAQ
- [NJTESOL-NJBE/FLENJ Seal of Biliteracy Website](#)
 - Promotional Videos
 - Historical and Pilot Program Statistics



Implementation Timeline

Date	Action
September 2016	Publish “Acceptable Evidence of Proficiency” document
October 2016	Launch website
November 2016 – January 2017	Provide updates as information becomes available
February 2017 – May 2017	Review of submitted data regarding students who are eligible for a Seal to NJDOE
June 2017	Provide districts with Seal of Biliteracy certificates
July 2017 – August 2017	Analyze data collection and recommendations for next year
September 2017	Provide Governor’s Office with finalized report required by law



Insignia and Seal

The insignia listed on the student transcript:
“New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy”

The image of the Seal that appears on the certificate:

