

**SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- Date:** March 15, 2019
- To:** Area Superintendents, Principals, Vice Principals, Head Counselors, Division and Department Heads, World Language Teachers 9-12 Grade
- Subject:** SDUSD SEAL OF BILITERACY ACADEMIC RECOGNITION FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN SPRING/SUMMER OF 2019
- Departments and/or Persons Concerned:** Area Superintendents, Principals, Vice Principals, Head Counselors, Division and Department Heads, World Language Teachers 9-12 Grade, Students in World Language Courses 9-12 Grade
- Due Date:** **Submit all verification documents to the Office of Language Acquisition by May 17, 2019. Any late submissions after the deadline will NOT be considered or approved.**
- Reference:**
1. Resolution establishing the SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy for Eligible 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Seniors, approved May 10, 2011
  2. AB 815 Brownley, State Seal of Biliteracy, approved October 8, 2011 and amended September 1, 2017 AB 1142, Medina
- Action Requested:**
1. Ensure all students currently enrolled in World Language Courses in grade 9–12 receive the information on the SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy.
  2. Ensure that all 12th grade students who have taken or are currently enrolled in World Language courses receive the application form for the SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy.
  3. Ensure that school counselors work with students to review the application and determine eligibility for receiving the SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy by carefully reviewing student transcripts, World Language AP or IB exam results, World Language End of Course Honors 7-8 scores, SAT II: Foreign Language Examination results or Seal of Biliteracy Alternate Assessment in Illuminate results
- Attachments:**
- A. Application for graduating seniors to receive the SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation, Spring/Summer 2019
  - B. Frequently Asked Questions
  - C. SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy Application Requirements

**Brief Explanation:**

The SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy is an academic recognition for high school graduating seniors who have attained proficiency in two or more languages in the following domains of language acquisition: listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

The SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy is directly linked to the Language Learning Policy adopted by the San Diego Unified School District Board of Trustees in August of 2009, which recognizes that “in addition to being academically prepared and fully proficient in English, all students benefit from being proficient in another language”. In addition, attainment of the SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy by graduating seniors clearly advances tenets of the District’s Vision 2020 plan for “preparing our students for the competitive global economy they will face in the years ahead” and the Vision 2020 goal to ensure that “students from all backgrounds in our district develop the ability to communicate in two languages.” Qualifying students graduating in the spring/summer of 2019 will receive SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy.

The State Seal of Biliteracy, AB 815, was signed by the governor and enacted into the California Education Code on October 8, 2011 and amended on 2017 AB 1142. As more information becomes available from the California Department of Education, revisions and alignment to the district criteria for the Seal of Biliteracy may be warranted.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

The student application form explains the specific criteria that must be met and documented in order for graduating seniors to fulfill the requirements for the SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy.

Recognizing that unique situations may arise with regard to student eligibility, please refer to Attachment B, **Frequently Asked Questions**. For additional information or questions, contact Sandra Cephas or Jonathan Ton in the Office of Language Acquisition, (619) 725-7264.

Sandra Cephas  
Director  
Office of Language Acquisition

APPROVED:



Theresa Laskowski  
Instructional Support Officer  
Office of Leadership and Learning

Attachments (3)