

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 55

Office of Leadership and Learning

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: May 17, 2021

To: Area Superintendents, Principals, Vice Principals, Head Counselors, Division and Department Heads, World Language Teachers 9-12 Grade

Subject: CALIFORNIA SEAL OF BILITERACY ACADEMIC RECOGNITION BY THE STATE FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN SPRING/SUMMER OF 2020 (DURING DISTANCE LEARNING)

Departments and/or Persons Concerned:

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 via email to ola@sandi.net by **May 26, 2021**. Any late submissions after the deadline will **NOT** be considered or approved.

Reference:

1. Resolution establishing the CA Seal of Biliteracy for Eligible Graduating 12th 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 Languages Courses in grades 9–12 receive information on the California Seal of Biliteracy.
2. Ensure that all 12th grade students who have taken or are currently enrolled in World Languages courses receive the application for the California Seal of Biliteracy.
3. Ensure that school counselors work with students to review the application and determine eligibility for receiving the California Seal of Biliteracy by carefully reviewing student transcripts, World Languages AP or IB coursework and exam results, or SAT II: Foreign Language Examination results.

Brief Explanation:

The California 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 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 California Seal of Biliteracy supports

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 California 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 2020 will receive the California Seal of Biliteracy.

Eligibility Criteria:

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

Recognizing that unique situations may arise with regard to student eligibility, please refer to Attachment 2, **Frequently Asked Questions**. For additional information or questions, please contact Theresa Laskowski tlaskowski@sandi.net, Jonathan Ton jton@sandi.net, or Claire Arias-Kassir carias@sandi.net in the Office of Language Acquisition.

Theresa Laskowski
Instructional Support Officer
Office of Language Acquisition

APPROVED:

Tavga Bustani
Chief of Leadership and Learning
Office of Leadership and Learning

TL:as

Attachments: A. [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
B. [2020 California Seal of Biliteracy Application](#)
C. [One page requirements for current Graduating](#)