

### Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy & Commendation towards Biliteracy

In accordance with Section 2-3.159 of the Illinois School Code, Adlai E. Stevenson High School is proud to offer current juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy — an official recognition featured on high school diplomas and transcripts that celebrates students' high-level proficiency in English and at least one additional language. This distinction can benefit students in college admissions and future employment.

#### What is Required?

To earn the Seal of Biliteracy or Commendation, students must demonstrate:

- High proficiency in English, and
- An "Intermediate High" level or above in another language
  - This must be shown through an ISBE-approved language assessment
  - Most assessments require proficiency in all four domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing
  - Some language assessments may only require speaking and writing\*

Students who meet the English requirement and demonstrate strong, but not quite qualifying, proficiency in another language may be awarded the State Commendation toward Biliteracy. While the Commendation does not typically qualify for college credit, it still signals strong language ability to both employers and college admissions offices.

#### **Additional Notes:**

- All students pursuing the Seal or Commendation must meet ISBE's English proficiency and World Language assessment requirements.
- Awards are granted at graduation and will be reflected on both the student's diploma and official transcript.



## 2025 - 2026 Biliteracy Exam FAQ - Juniors & Seniors ONLY

#### **QUICK LINKS**

Spring exam dates	Device used for exam	Seal of Biliteracy Key Benefit
Languages available for testing.	Exam tips/resources by vendor	College automatically process the credit?
Day of exam details	Seal of Biliteracy vs. Commendation Award	Retake Policy
Complete exam pricing	Seal of Biliteracy requirements	Cancellation Policy
Exam duration	Commendation Award requirements	Miscellaneous Info
Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)	Seal / Commendation testing before High School?	Campus Map - Test Entrance

## **2025-2026 EXAM DATES**

Saturday, October 11, 2025 - Fall Exam Saturday, March 14, 2026 - Spring Exam

## **TESTING LANGUAGES by Vendor**

AAPPL		ALIRA	STAMP 4S	STAMP WS
Arabic	Italian	Latin	Hindi	Marathi
Chinese (Mandarin)	Japanese		Polish	
English ESL	Korean		Russian	



AAPPL		ALIRA	STAMP 4S	STAMP WS
French	Portuguese (Brazilian)		Hebrew	
German	Spanish			

ALTA				
Afrikaans Albanian Amharic Armenian Eastern Azerbaijani (Azeri)	Igbo Ilocano Indonesian	Pashto Punjabi (Eastern) Punjabi (Western)		
Baluchi (Western) Bangla (Bengali) Bosnian Bulgarian Burmese	Jamaican Patois Japanese	Romanian		
Cambodian Chinese Cantonese Chuukese Croatian Czech	Macedonian Malay Malayalam Mongolian	Samoan Serbian Serbo-Croatian Sinhala Slovak	Somali Sorani Swahili Swedish	
Danish Dari Dutch	Kannada Kazakh Kinyarwanda Kurdish Kurmanji Kurdish Sorani	Tagalog Taiwanese Tajik Tamil (India) Telugu Thai	Telugu Thai Tibetan Tigrinya Turkish Turkmen Twi (Akan)	
Ewe	Lao Latvian Lithuanian	Ukrainian Urdu Uzbek		
Fante (Akan) Farsi Finnish Fulani	Macedonian Malay Malayalam Mongolian	Vietnamese		
Ga Greek Georgian Gujarati	Nepali Norwegian	Wolof		



ALTA			
Haitian Creole Hungarian Hausa	Oromo	Yoruba	

#### DAY OF EXAM DETAILS

#### **SPRING 2026**

**DATE:** Saturday, March 14, 2026

**CHECK-IN:** 7:50 a.m.

CHECK-IN/TEST LOCATION: PWC Entrance

**TESTING TIME:** 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (*Testing begins and ends on time.*) **TRANSPORTATION:** No school transportation will be provided. Students must

arrange for their own transportation.

#### **COMPLETE EXAM PRICING**

The table below outlines the language assessments available at Stevenson High School, along with the vendor exam costs.

#### Please note:

Stevenson does not charge an internal processing fee.

The following table lists the language assessments offered at Stevenson, the vendor providing the exam, and the associated costs. Stevenson *does not currently charge a processing fee*. A \$2.00 credit card processing fee has been added to the cost of the exam, effective 1/1/2025.

- \* Effective April 7, 2025, AAPPL and ALIRA exam pricing have increased.
- \* ALTA Speaking and Listening exams will now be administered via computer. Students will no longer test with a live operator unless IVR is not an option.



Language	Exam Vendor	Complete Exam		Language	Exam Vendor	Complete Exam
Arabic	AAPPL	\$22.50*		Italian	AAPPL	\$22.50*
Bengali (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$176.00		Latin	ALIRA	\$11.00*
Bulgarian (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$162.00		Mongolian (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$176.00
Chinese (Mandarin)	AAPPL	\$22.50*	0	Polish	STAMP 4S	\$24.90
English	AAPPL	\$22.50*		Portuguese (Brazilian)	AAPPL	\$22.50*
French	AAPPL	\$22.50*		Russian	STAMP 4S	\$24.90
German	AAPPL	\$22.50*		Spanish	AAPPL	\$22.50
Greek <i>New</i>	ALTA	\$176.00		Tamil (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$162.00
Gujarati (Tier 2)	ALTA	\$203.00		Telugu (Tier 2)	ALTA	\$203.00
Hebrew	STAMP 4S	\$61.90		Thai (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$162.00
Hindi	STAMP 4S	\$24.90		Turkish (Tier 1) New	ALTA	\$162.00
				Language	Exam Vendor	Complete Exam
				Turkmen (Tier 2)	ALTA	\$203.00
				Ukrainian (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$162.00

## **EXAM DURATION** (approximately)

**DURATION:** Some tests must be completed in one sitting, including STAMP 4S, STAMP WS, ALIRA, and ALTA's Reading and Writing exams.

## **Students testing via the AAPPL and STAMP 4S exams:**

The average duration for testing in all four domains —Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing —is 2 hours and 15 minutes. However, all students, including those who qualify for extended



time via their IEPs or 504s, may use the extra time to complete the exam. Once a student completes their exam, they can leave.

#### Students testing via the ALIRA exam:

The average duration for students taking the ALIRA Latin exam is approximately 1 hour. Once a student completes their exam, they can leave.

## Students testing via the ALTA exam:

- ALTA's Writing test consists of 5 questions. Duration is a 1-hour timed test (handwritten).
- ALTA's Reading Comprehension Tests consist of several reading selections with a series of
  multiple-choice questions for each passage. The number of passages and questions
  depends on the test that has been assigned to you. Anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes,
  depending on the assigned test. The allotted time is highlighted on the exam.
- The Listening and Speaking portions are administered via computer and are no more than **30 minutes** in total.

## **Device used for exam**

Students taking the **AAPPL, ALIRA, STAMP 4S,** and **STAMP WS** exams will use a school-issued laptop and a headset. The Reading and Writing portions of the **ALTA** exam are written.

## **Exam Tips and Resources by Vendor**

**KEYBOARD:** To complete the Writing portion of the exam, students must be familiar with using the English keyboard and activate a virtual keyboard to type appropriate characters for the language they're testing in. For more information on keyboards, please click **here**.

#### AAPPL

- <u>Tips on taking the AAPPL assessments</u>
- AAPPL Demo
- AAPPL Click here and scroll down (1st column for Form B) for a sample test in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, or Spanish. Form B is used to test for the Seal of Biliteracy.



- AAPPL Sample Score Report
- o AAPPL Writing Score Descriptions
- AAPPL Interpersonal Speaking, Listening Score Descriptions
- AAPPL Interpretive Reading and Listening Score Descriptions

#### • STAMP 4S & STAMPS WS (Avant)

- STAMP 4S Test-taker Guide
- o Tips for taking the STAMP 4S exam
- STAMP 4S Sample Test Resource.STAMP 4S Sample Score Report

#### ALIRA

- ALIRA Latin click here for more information
- ALIRA Latin Sample Test
- **ALTA** (Reading and Writing pen and paper)

Students testing via the ALTA exam will complete the Reading and Writing portions on paper. The Speaking and Listening portions will be administered via a school-provided laptop on the day of the test.

- ALTA Testing Instructions Student
- IS THE TEST TIMED
  - The Writing and Reading tests are each one hour maximum.
  - Students test on a computer for the <u>listening and speaking portions</u>.
     Tests are approximately 30 minutes.
- ALTA Scoring Scale

## Illinois Seal of Biliteracy vs. Illinois Commendation towards Biliteracy

The **Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy** and the **Illinois Commendation toward Biliteracy** are both part of a program that recognizes high school students for their proficiency in languages other than English. The primary difference between the two lies in the level of language proficiency demonstrated by the student:

#### 1. Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy:

- Awarded to students who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.
- The proficiency level typically aligns with Intermediate High on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) scale.



 The Seal is affixed to the student's high school diploma and transcript, providing recognition of their bilingual or multilingual abilities, which can be advantageous in college admissions or employment.

#### 2. Illinois Commendation toward Biliteracy:

- Awarded to students who demonstrate a significant but slightly lower level of proficiency in a language other than English.
- The proficiency level for the Commendation generally corresponds to Intermediate Low or Intermediate Mid on the ACTFL scale.
- This recognition is an acknowledgment of their progress towards biliteracy, but does not meet the higher proficiency requirements for the full Seal of Biliteracy.

In summary, the Seal of Biliteracy recognizes **higher proficiency**, while the Commendation toward Biliteracy acknowledges students who have made substantial progress but have not yet reached the same level of fluency.

## **IL. State Seal of Biliteracy Requirements**

To earn the Seal, students must demonstrate high proficiency in **both** (1) **English** and (2) **another language** using one of the approved criteria below.

#### **1. English Proficiency** (CHOOSE ONE)

To qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy by their senior year of high school, students <u>must</u> demonstrate proficiency in English via **one** of the following methods:

- <u>ACT Exam</u>: **NEW** <u>Effective 10/1/2025</u>: Earn a minimum **ELA** score of 18 or higher on an official administration of the ACT.
- <u>SAT Exam</u>: Earn a minimum score of 480 in the Evidence-based Reading/Writing (EBRW) portion of the SAT exam
- ACCESS for ELLs: Earn a minimum overall score of 4.8 on the ACCESS for ELLs exam
- <u>AAPPL English ESL Exam</u>: Earn a composite score of I-5 or higher in all four domains *Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking. (For ELL students only.)*

#### 2. Demonstrate Proficiency in a Language Other Than English (CHOOSE ONE)

Choose one of the following options below to meet the language requirement for the Seal of Biliteracy:



- AP Placement Language exam: Earn a 4 or 5 on the exam taken prior to their Senior year.
- <u>AAPPL Exam</u>: Earn a composite score of I-5 or higher in all four domains *Reading*, Listening, Writing, and Speaking
- <u>Avant STAMP 4S Exam</u>: Earn a minimum composite score of 6 (Intermediate-High) or higher in all four domains — *Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking*
- <u>Avant's STAMP WS</u>: Earn a minimum composite score of 6 or higher on two domains. Students only test in Writing and Speaking
- <u>ALTA</u>: Earn a minimum score of 1+ Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) on the ALTA Speaking and Listening Assessment, Reading, and Writing Assessment.

## **IL. State Commendation towards Biliteracy Requirements**

To earn the Commendation, students must demonstrate high proficiency in **both** (1) **English** (<u>same criteria as Seal above</u>), and (2) **another language** using the same criteria as outlined for the Seal of Biliteracy.

# **1.** <u>Demonstrate progress towards proficiency in a language other than English.</u> (CHOOSE ONE)

- AP Placement Language exam: Earn a 3 on the exam taken prior to their Senior year.
- AAPPL: Score between I1 I4
- STAMP 4S / WS: Score Intermediate Low (4) or Intermediate High (5)
- ALIRA: Score between I1 I4
- <u>ALTA</u>: Earn a minimum score of 1 Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) on the ALTA Speaking and Listening Assessment, Reading Assessment, and Writing Assessment.

# Can the Seal of Biliteracy be awarded to high school students if they tested before high school?

No. To qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy or Commendation toward Biliteracy, a student must complete the English and world language assessments while enrolled in high school.



## Do IL colleges or universities automatically process the Seal of Biliteracy credit?

College credit is not processed automatically upon receipt of a high school transcript. Following the Illinois School Code, students enrolled in a public community college or public university who have received a State Seal of Biliteracy <u>must request credit for their seal within three (3) academic years after graduating from high school</u>.

## Can I retake a portion of the exam if I do not meet the required Seal of Biliteracy score?

Retake policy and pricing vary from vendor to vendor.

#### **AAPPL and ALIRA Assessments:**

- Students can retake the AAPPL, ALIRA, and ALTA assessments multiple times in multiple sections, only repeating the required sections.
- A <u>90-day period between exam dates is required</u>.
- Students register for retakes when registration opens for the next Biliteracy exam.
- Costs for retaking the ALIRA or portions of the AAPPL exam are as follows:
  - AAPPL Speaking \$11, Writing \$6, Listening and Reading \$5.50
  - o ALIRA \$11

#### STAMP WS and STAMP 4S:

• Retakes: Students may retake the <u>complete</u> exam when the next Biliteracy exam is available.

#### ALTA:

- Retakes are available when the next Biliteracy testing window opens. As only two (2) attempts are allowed each calendar year, we recommend that students study before retaking the test. If multiple tests are taken, the highest score will be used.
- Cost for retesting in a domain is as follows:

TIER 1		TIER 2
Speaking & Listening IVR - \$58.00		Speaking & Listening IVR - \$80.00
Writing (paper) - \$69.00		Writing (paper) - \$80.00



Reading (paper) - \$35.00		Reading (paper) - \$40.00
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## **Cancellation Policy:**

Due to limited seating, cancellations must be requested via email at **biliteracy@d125.org 72 hours in advance** to receive a **full refund.** 

#### **VENDORS**

- AAPPL
- STAMP 4S & WS (Avant)
- ALIRA
- ALTA
  - No fee is charged for cancellations received <u>at least 48 hours prior to the exam date</u>. Email <u>biliteracy@d125.org</u> to request cancellation. No exceptions.
  - No refunds will be issued if the cancellation occurs less than 48 hours prior to the exam date or in the event of a <u>no-show</u>.
  - This policy is necessary because the vendor has already contracted and paid an evaluator in the respective language.
  - Speaking and Listening Exam Policy: The same policy applies to students who are No Shows or Late and fail to call at their scheduled Speaking and Listening exam time. Students have a 15-minute window to initiate the call and begin the exam with a Live Operator.

## What is one key benefit of the Seal of Biliteracy?

According to **HB 4330**, Illinois public universities will accept the State Seal of Biliteracy as equivalent to two years of foreign language coursework taken during high school if a student's high school transcript indicates that they received the State Seal of Biliteracy. Many universities <u>waive</u> foreign language requirements and/or grant course credit for students who have earned the <u>Seal of Biliteracy</u>. For reference, <u>view the University of Illinois</u>, <u>Champaign-Urbana website</u>.



## Miscellaneous notes when applying to colleges and universities:

 Once the Seal of Biliteracy is earned and conferred on transcripts, we encourage students to include this accomplishment in their College Board account and on their college resumes.

## Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) - Information regarding Biliteracy

- More information on Course Credit for the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy at Public Colleges and Universities in Illinois
- For Parents and Guardians: Seal of Biliteracy At-a-Glance
- For Students: Seal of Biliteracy At-a-Glance
- Seal of Biliteracy for CTE and Industry



## **ENTRANCE**

## **SHS PARKING MAP**

