



2025 - 2026 Biliteracy Exam FAQ - Juniors & Seniors ONLY

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2025-2026 EXAM DATES

Saturday, October 11, 2025 - Fall Exam

Saturday, March 15, 2026 - Spring Exam

TESTING LANGUAGES by Vendor

AAPPL		ALIRA	STAMP 4S	STAMP WS
Arabic	Italian	Latin	Hindi	Marathi
Chinese (<i>Mandarin</i>)	Japanese		Polish	
English ESL	Korean		Russian	
French	Portuguese (<i>Brazilian</i>)			
German	Spanish			

Questions: Contact the Biliteracy Testing Team at biliteracy@d125.org.

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 Georgian Greek Gujarati	Nepali Norwegian	Wolof	
Haitian Creole Hausa Hungarian	Oromo	Yoruba	

Questions: Contact the Biliteracy Testing Team at biliteracy@d125.org.

DAY OF EXAM DETAILS

FALL 2025-2026

DATE: October 11, 2025

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 following table includes the language assessments offered at Stevenson, including vendor and cost for a complete exam. Stevenson *does not charge a processing fee* at this time. 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	\$162.00		Latin	ALIRA	\$11.00*
Bulgarian (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$162.00		Marathi (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$162.00
Chinese (Mandarin)	AAPPL	\$22.50*	0	Mongolian (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$162.00
English	AAPPL	\$22.50*		Polish	STAMP 4S	\$24.90
French	AAPPL	\$22.50*		Portuguese (Brazilian)	AAPPL	\$22.50*
German	AAPPL	\$22.50*		Russian	STAMP 4S	\$24.90
Greek <i>New</i>	ALTA	\$176.00		Spanish	AAPPL	\$22.50
Gujarati (Tier 2)	ALTA	\$203.00		Tamil (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$162.00
Hebrew	STAMP	\$61.90		Telugu (Tier 2)	ALTA	\$203.00
Hindi	STAMP 4S	\$24.90		Thai (Tier 1)	ALTA	\$162.00

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				Language	Exam Vendor	Complete Exam
				Turkish (<i>Tier 1</i>) New	ALTA	\$162.00
				Turkmen (<i>Tier 2</i>)	ALTA	\$203.00
				Ukrainian (<i>Tier 1</i>)	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, including 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 is a 5-question test. 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, maximum**, depending on the test assigned. 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.

Questions: Contact the Biliteracy Testing Team at biliteracy@d125.org.

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**

- [Tips on taking the AAPPL assessments](#)
- [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](#)
- [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](#)
- [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 test is **one hour maximum each**.
 - Students test on a computer for the **listening and speaking portions**. 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:

Questions: Contact the Biliteracy Testing Team at biliteracy@d125.org.

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 the approved criteria below.

1. English Proficiency

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

- Earn a minimum score of 4 on the Advanced Placement (AP) English Exam
- Earn a minimum Composite score of 21 on the ACT exam
- Earn a minimum score of 480 in the Evidence-based Reading/Writing (EBRW) portion of the SAT exam
- Earn a minimum overall score of 4.8 on the ACCESS 2.0 for ELLs exam **or**
- **New - effective 9/2/2025:** Earn a minimum ACT Composite score of 18 (or higher) or an 18 on the ELA portion (or higher).
- Earning an Intermediate-High score requirement in each domain (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) via AAPPL (Form B) or STAMP 4S English Exam

2. Show Proficiency in a language other than English.

- Earn a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement (AP) language exam taken prior to their Senior year.
- Earn a composite score of 15 (*or higher*) on all four domains of ACTFL's AAPPL exam, including Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking.

Questions: Contact the Biliteracy Testing Team at biliteracy@d125.org.

- Earn a minimum composite score of 6 (Intermediate-High) or higher on all four portions of the Avants STAMP 4S exam, including Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking.
- Earning a minimum score of 1+ Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) in the ALTA Speaking and Listening Assessment, Reading Assessment, and Writing Assessment.

IL. State Commendation towards Biliteracy Requirements

To earn the Commendation towards Biliteracy in a language, students must demonstrate progress towards proficiency in another language.

1. **English Proficiency**

- The [same criteria](#) as needed for the Seal of Biliteracy.

2. **Demonstrate progress towards proficiency in a language other than English.**

- 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
- ALTA: 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. For a student to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy or Commendation toward Biliteracy, the English and world language assessments must be completed while the student is enrolled in high school.

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 waive foreign language requirements and/or grant course credit for students who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy. For reference, view the [University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana website](#).

Questions: Contact the Biliteracy Testing Team at biliteracy@d125.org.

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 must request credit for their seal within three (3) academic years after graduating from high school.

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 90-day period between exam dates is required.
- 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
 - ALIRA - \$11

STAMP WS and STAMP 4S:

- Retakes: Students may retake the complete 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

Questions: Contact the Biliteracy Testing Team at biliteracy@d125.org.

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 (*Avant*)
- ALIRA
- ALTA
 - No fee is charged for cancellations received 48 hours before the exam date. Email biliteracy@d125.org to request cancellation. No exceptions.
 - **No refunds** if canceled less than 48 hours before the exam date or in case of a no-show.
 - 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.

Miscellaneous notes when applying to colleges and universities:

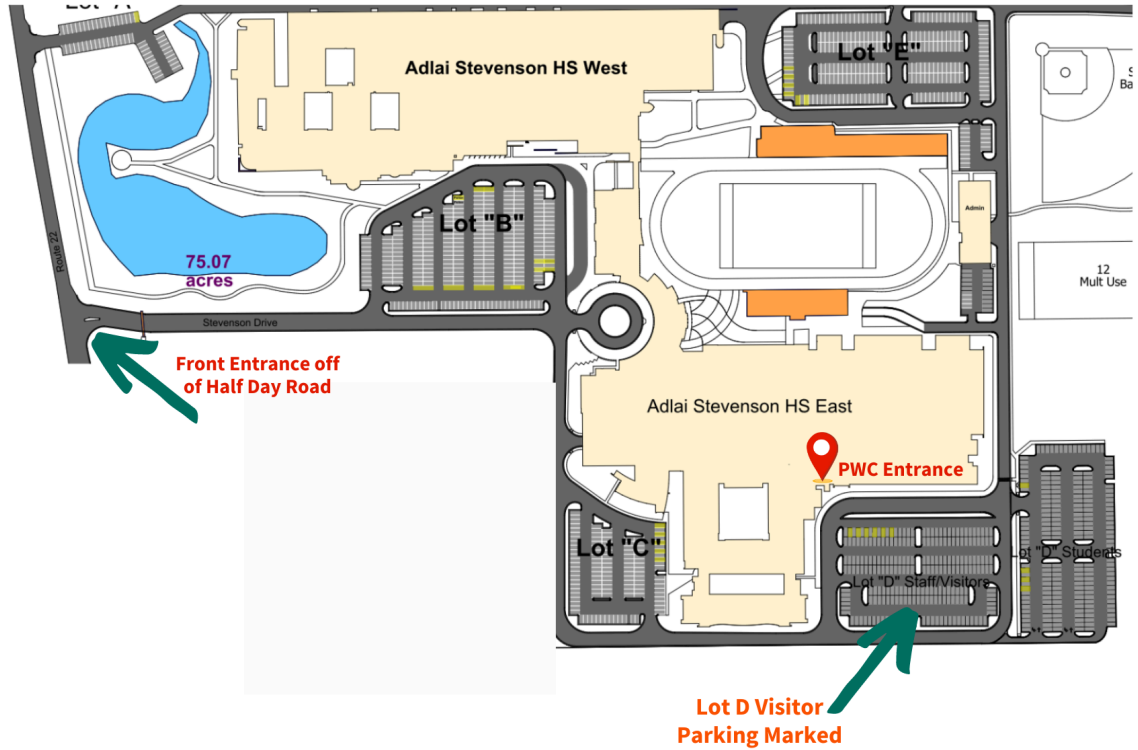
- Once the Seal of Biliteracy is earned and conferred on transcripts, we encourage students to include this accomplishment in their College Board account and on their college resumes.

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

- [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](#)

Questions: Contact the Biliteracy Testing Team at biliteracy@d125.org.

SHS PARKING MAP



Questions: Contact the Biliteracy Testing Team at biliteracy@d125.org.