



# North Carolina Department of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy



## Global Language Endorsement Frequently Asked Questions

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## Overall

### 1. What is the Global Languages Endorsement (GLE)?

The GLE is a high school diploma endorsement for students to show their multiliteracy in English and at least one World Language. The GLE is North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy, and it indicates a high school graduate has attained literacy in English and in another language or languages, as well as knowledge of other countries, civilizations, and cultures, which will be beneficial for students when they move to the workplace and into postsecondary studies in our interconnected economy and communities.

### 2. Does North Carolina have a Seal of Biliteracy?

The Global Languages Endorsement (GLE) is North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy. The GLE has been available to graduating seniors since 2015. In July 2024, several updates were made to the GLE policy, including raising the World Language proficiency level to Intermediate Mid, expanding the options available to meet the English requirement so that they mirror the options for the World Language requirement, and clarifying the policy language based on feedback from the field.

### 3. Why does North Carolina call its Seal of Biliteracy the GLE?

The Global Languages Endorsement (GLE) is one of seven [diploma endorsements](#) that North Carolina public school graduates can earn based on State Board of Education policy GRAD-007. When North Carolina decided to create a Seal of Biliteracy, it was included in the existing policy of diploma endorsements so that it could be recognized in the same way. Please see the [North Carolina State Board of Education Policy Manual](#) for details about GRAD-007: High School Diploma Endorsements.

### 4. Who can earn the GLE, North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy?

All North Carolina students enrolled in public schools (charter schools, district high schools, and early colleges) who are graduating seniors are eligible to earn the GLE, our state's Seal of Biliteracy. Students outside of public schools, such as those in independent or private schools or who are homeschooled, may be able to earn a similar recognition that their school has created locally or consider an option that is available nationally for learners not currently included in state Seal of Biliteracy programs, the Global Seal of Biliteracy: <https://www.globalsealofbiliteracy.net/>.

### 5. What are the requirements to earn the GLE?

A student must meet the requirements in English and a World Language, which are outlined on the GLE section of the Global Education Recognitions page at <https://go.ncdpi.gov/NCSoBLGLE>.

To **demonstrate mastery of the English language**, the student must **fulfill one of the following**:

1. Complete English IV or equivalent course and earn a cumulative, unweighted grade point average of at least 2.5 for all English coursework required for graduation;  
(The Level IV or equivalent course has been crosswalked to community college ENG 241 or ENG 242 if ENG 111 and ENG 112 have also been completed. The qualifying course codes for AP, IB, Cambridge, community college, and university courses are included in the Infinite Campus automation.)  
or
2. Use the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery policy to complete the English IV course required for graduation;  
or

3. Take a nationally norm-referenced external exam approved by NCDPI and achieve a score that meets the English requirement as noted on the approved list.

To **demonstrate mastery of a World Language at the Intermediate Mid proficiency level or higher**, the student must **fulfill one of the following**:

1. Complete a Level IV or higher course in a World Language and earn a cumulative, unweighted grade point average of at least 2.5 for all World Language coursework in that language;  
(Level IV or higher courses have been crosswalked to community college Level 212 or Intermediate II courses. Details for each language are in the Alignment of World Language High School Courses with Community College Courses information in the [Crosswalks area](#) of the World Languages Resources Hub. The qualifying course codes for AP, IB, Cambridge, community college, and university courses are included in the Infinite Campus automation.)  
or
2. Use the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery policy to complete a Level IV or higher course in a World Language, including the home and heritage languages used across North Carolina;  
or
3. Take a nationally or internationally norm-referenced external exam approved by NCDPI and achieve a score of Intermediate Mid or higher in that language.

#### **6. What has changed in the GLE policy for students who are Multilingual Learners (MLs)?**

Prior to 2024, students in high school who were Multilingual Learners (MLs), formerly referred to as English Learners (ELs), had to meet the requirements for English and a World Language, plus reach “Developing” (Level 3) proficiency on the most recent state-identified English language proficiency test (WIDA ACCESS test). Going forward, students who are MLs at the high school level must meet the [requirements](#) for English and a World Language by fulfilling one of the three options for each language. If they choose the option for English of taking a nationally norm-referenced external exam approved by NCDPI, the WIDA ACCESS test is on the approved list, but there are also other exams that can be selected to demonstrate mastery of the English language.

#### **7. When did the GLE first become available?**

The GLE, North Carolina’s Seal of Biliteracy, was approved by the State Board of Education in January 2015 and was available beginning with graduating seniors in the Spring of 2015.

#### **8. Can a student receive college credit for a GLE?**

It depends. The GLE information, language(s) and proficiency level(s), are listed on the student’s transcript, and some colleges and universities have placement and/or credit policies for the Seal of Biliteracy. For example, East Carolina University’s (ECU) Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures includes the [Seal of Biliteracy or GLE in its placement policy](#) for all admitted students, and there is a national list of universities that offer credit for Seal of Biliteracy earners being compiled by Dr. Kristin Davin from UNC Charlotte at <https://tinyurl.com/Credit4SOBL>. Please check with the campus where the student will be attending for post-secondary study.

### **Students**

#### **9. Can a student earn the GLE in more than one World Language?**

Yes, a student may add as many World Languages to their GLE for which they qualify by establishing Intermediate Mid or higher proficiency using one of the three options below for each language:

- a. Complete a Level IV or higher course in a World Language and earn a cumulative, unweighted grade point average of at least 2.5 for all World Language coursework in that language; or  
(Level IV or above courses have been crosswalked to community college Level 212 or Intermediate II courses. Details for each language are in the Alignment of World Language High School Courses with Community College Courses information in the [Crosswalks area](#) of the World Languages Resources Hub.)
- b. Use the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CCRE-001) to complete a Level IV or higher course in a World Language, including the home and heritage languages used across North Carolina; or
- c. Take a nationally or internationally norm-referenced external exam approved by NCDPI and achieve a score of Intermediate Mid or higher in that language.

**10. Can a student earn the GLE in a language that is not taught in their school?**

Yes, a student can earn the GLE in any World Language for which they qualify by establishing Intermediate Mid or higher proficiency using one of the options outlined in the policy, which will likely be:

- using the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) process to earn credit in a Level IV or higher course in the World Language, or
- taking a proficiency-based external exam on the NCDPI approved external assessment list in the World Language.

It does not matter how, where, or when the student acquired or learned the language.

**11. Can the GLE be awarded retroactively for students who graduated before 2015?**

No, the GLE is only available going forward from when it was approved in January 2015.

**12. How can Multilingual Learners (MLs) earn the GLE, North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy?**

A student who is a Multilingual Learner (ML) in high school must satisfy one of the available options for both the English and World Language [requirements](#) of the GLE. Per the July 2024 update to GLE policy language, no additional English proficiency requirement must be completed by a student who is a Multilingual Learner.

**13. How can heritage language students or native speakers of a language other than English earn the GLE?**

Students who have proficiency in a heritage or home language other than English need to satisfy one of the available options for the English requirement and their World Language. They can use any of the three World Language options outlined in the policy to establish Intermediate Mid or higher proficiency in the heritage or home language, as well as any other World Language they have acquired or learned. World Language proficiency [requirements](#) must be established during middle school or high school (grades 6 - 12).

**14. How can students who are or have been in a dual language/immersion (DL/I) program earn the GLE, North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy?**

Students who are in a high school DL/I program, and/or have been in an elementary or middle school DL/I program, need to satisfy both the English and World Language [requirements](#) via the three available options for each. World Language proficiency requirements must be established during middle school or high school (grades 6 - 12).

**15. How can students in an independent or private school earn a Seal of Biliteracy?**

Students in North Carolina who are graduating seniors at an independent or private school may be able to earn a similar recognition that their school has created locally or consider an option that is available

nationally for learners not currently included in state Seal of Biliteracy programs, the Global Seal of Biliteracy: <https://theglobalseal.com/>.

**16. How can students in a homeschool earn a Seal of Biliteracy?**

Students in North Carolina who are graduating seniors at a homeschool may be able to earn a similar recognition that is available nationally for learners not currently included in state Seal of Biliteracy programs, the Global Seal of Biliteracy: <https://theglobalseal.com/>.

**Proficiency Level**

**17. What proficiency level is needed for the Global Languages Endorsement?**

Intermediate Mid proficiency on the ACTFL proficiency scale is the minimum proficiency level required for the Global Languages Endorsement (GLE), North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy.

**18. Can a GLE, North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy, be earned at a higher proficiency level?**

Yes, Intermediate Mid is the minimum proficiency requirement, but the GLE can also be earned at the Intermediate High, Advanced Low, Advanced Mid, Advanced High, and Superior level.

**19. How can a higher level of proficiency be earned for the GLE?**

If a student wants to earn a higher level of proficiency beyond Intermediate Mid, they will need to either:

- a. Earn credit in a Level V or higher course using the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) process; or
- b. Achieve a score of Intermediate High or higher on a proficiency-based external exam on the NCDPI approved external assessment list.

**20. Will a higher level of proficiency earned for the GLE show on the transcript?**

Yes, the student's higher proficiency level will be listed on the transcript once the school or district enters it manually into Infinite Campus so that this information can be located in the automated identification logic.

If a higher level of proficiency is established:

- a. Using the CDM process, the CDM grade must be entered into Infinite Campus as a historical grade.
- b. Using the external exam option, the external test score(s) and corresponding proficiency level must be manually entered into the student's academic page.

Please see the Global Languages Endorsement User Guide (**Coming soon!**) for details about how to enter this information into the Student Information System (SIS), PowerSchool or Infinite Campus.

**21. Are there different types of seals for the GLE based on the level of proficiency?**

No, each high school diploma endorsement has only one seal design, which can be purchased from the [NCDPI Publication Department](#) (Item #IS182 Global Language Seal) for less than \$5 in sheets of 63 seals. Districts and charter schools may print their own diploma endorsement seals, but must follow the [Diploma Seals Specifications](#), which are available, along with the endorsement seal files, on the [For Schools dropdown](#) on the High School Diploma Endorsements page.