



Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

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Dear Families,

We are excited to announce that the State Board of Education, in conjunction with the state legislature, has approved **Connecticut's Seal of Biliteracy**. This newly established seal is in line with nearly 30 other states across the country. The designation associated with the seal attests to a student's language ability in both English and a second language. **The Seal of Biliteracy will be affixed to a student's diploma and will also be noted on his/her final transcript, which will be sent to colleges/universities.**



The Seal of Biliteracy is a testament to a student's dedication to building literacy skills in both English and a second language and how it relates to post-secondary education and the workforce. The Seal of Biliteracy may also help to ensure proper placement in the right level course at the college/university level. Additionally, students may receive college credit for work that they completed in high school; check with individual colleges/universities for specific information about this. Very often the ability to communicate in both English and at least one other language equates to a higher pay rate when students join the workforce.

In order to receive the Seal of Biliteracy students must:

Be in 10th grade or higher AND

Complete the English language requirements from a Connecticut high school where the primary language of instruction is English AND

Attain an Intermediate Mid proficiency* rating in a second language.

**Typically, speakers and writers at the Intermediate-Mid level are able to handle a variety of tasks in everyday social situations. Conversation and writers at this level is generally focused on exchanges necessary for survival in the target culture. These topics may include personal information related to self, family, home, daily activities, interests and personal preferences, as well as physical and social needs, such as food, shopping, travel, and lodging.*

The seal is designed to enhance your child's educational credentials and will not impact your child's grades, GPA, or graduation status. If you have any questions about the Seal of Biliteracy, please visit http://www.ctcolt.org/pages/Seal_of_Biliteracy.asp

Eligibility:

Students in level 5 Spanish, level 5 French, level 4 Italian and level 4 Latin are eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy test at Newtown High School. Students will take the Seal of Biliteracy exam during school hours in the second semester of the year depending on school events, snow days, curriculum, and language lab availability. This time frame has been selected to ensure the most successful outcome for the students.

Earning the Seal of Biliteracy

The Seal of Biliteracy is earned upon completion of high school and graduating. Students need to complete the English language requirements from their high school to earn the Seal of Biliteracy as well as pass a second language test accepted by the state of Connecticut. Newtown High School uses the AAPPL test (www.AAPPL.org) for measuring student eligibility. Students need to score **I-3 or higher** on each of the four components to be awarded the Seal of Biliteracy. Latin will take the equivalent, which is the ALIRA test. If a student does not pass the test the first time, they may retake the test two months after the original testing date at cost to the student and their family.

Cost

The test this year will be free to students. However, if a student does not pass a section of the test they will need to pay to retake the necessary portions of the exam. The student would only need to retake the part of the exam they did not pass to be able to earn the Seal of Biliteracy. The cost of each section varies, but is at most \$20 for a retake for the whole exam.

The test is *optional*. However, we strongly encourage all eligible students to take this assessment as they have been preparing for a proficiency test for real-world applications of the language throughout their high school experience. Please feel free to contact your child's language teacher if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ward-Toller
World Language Department Chair, NHS

Student name: _____ Teacher: _____

Please initial next to each statement:

_____ I would like my child to have the opportunity to take a test to demonstrate their language use and have the Seal of Biliteracy added to their transcripts if they achieve intermediate mid or higher.

_____ I understand that taking the tests to achieve the Seal of Biliteracy are completely voluntary and have no impact on my student's GPA or grades.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____