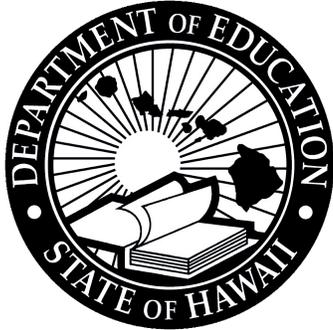


# SEAL OF BILITERACY

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### **What is the Hawai'i State Seal of Biliteracy?**

The Hawai'i State Seal of Biliteracy (the Seal of Biliteracy) is an award given by the Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) in recognition of students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in both of the State's two official languages, English and Hawaiian, **OR** either of the State's two official languages and at least one additional language, including American Sign Language, by high school graduation.

### **Why is the Seal of Biliteracy implemented?**

The Seal of Biliteracy encourages students to pursue biliteracy, honors the skills our students attain, and can be evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices.

### **Is the Seal of Biliteracy just for English Learners?**

No. A Seal of Biliteracy is granted to all students who meet the criteria for the award.

### **In Hawai'i, who can apply for and earn the Seal of Biliteracy?**

A graduating senior enrolled in a Hawai'i public or public charter school.

### **If I apply to earn the Seal of Biliteracy and end up needing to move to another state before graduating, how will Hawai'i's requirements translate to other states?**

Currently, Hawai'i's requirements to demonstrate 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and English language proficiency, score requirements for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB), and scores requirements on the Department-approved language assessments align with other states' requirements for the Seal of Biliteracy.

Since Seal of Biliteracy requirements vary from state to state (or in some instances, by school districts), please contact us at [biliteracy@k12.hi.us](mailto:biliteracy@k12.hi.us), so we may research your particular situations.

### **How many states have adopted or offer the Seal of Biliteracy?**

Currently, 49 states have adopted and offered the Seal of Biliteracy. Please visit <http://sealofbiliteracy.org/faq#n293> for details.

### **How can I demonstrate proficiency in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i?**

Candidates can obtain a 3.0 GPA or higher for the Hawaiian Language Arts courses required for graduation or take the Avant Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) WS 'Ōlelo Hawai'i online assessment.

### **How can I demonstrate proficiency in English?**

Candidates can obtain a 3.0 GPA or higher for the English Language Arts courses required for graduation or use other available scores for English language proficiency. Please visit [bit.ly/HISeal](http://bit.ly/HISeal) for details.

### **I am not enrolled in an AP course at my school. How can I sign up to take a language assessment for AP?**

A Hawai'i public or public charter school student does not need to be enrolled in an AP course at his/her school to sign up for and take an AP world language assessment. If your high school offers AP courses, contact your AP Coordinator to register. Visit <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home> and go to "Taking Exams."

### **I took an AP world language exam during my junior year and attained a score of 3.0 or higher. Can I use my AP scores towards meeting the Seal of Biliteracy world language requirement?**

Yes. Students who have already taken the AP world language exams in grade 9, 10, and/or 11 and received a score of 3.0 or higher can use the AP scores towards meeting the Hawai'i State Seal of Biliteracy world language requirement.

### **What will students receive if they earn the Seal of Biliteracy?**

The Hawai'i State Seal of Biliteracy designation added to the transcript, a medallion, and a certificate.

### **AP and IB scores are released during the summer following graduation. How will I know if I was successful in earning the Seal of Biliteracy?**

In the summer, upon verification that the student has met all eligibility criteria, the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (OCID) will add the Seal of Biliteracy designation to the transcript and send the medallion and certificate to the honoree.

### **What new languages are available through the online language assessment?**

Please visit [bit.ly/HISealLangExamList](http://bit.ly/HISealLangExamList) for a complete list of languages and exams available for the candidates.

### **If I choose to take the Department-approved online language assessment to meet the world language requirement, do I arrange on my own to take the assessment?**

No. OCID will coordinate with the schools to arrange for the assessment administration.

### **I have studied a world language for four years at my high school and have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA in those classes. May I use my course credits to meet the world language assessment requirement for the Seal of Biliteracy?**

No. In order to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, a student must take a world language assessment approved by the Department and meet its designated minimum score requirements. World language assessments will optimally measure a student's real-world proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

### **I've been accepted to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). How will the College of Arts, Languages & Letters at UHM recognize the Department's Seal of Biliteracy?**

The College of Arts, Languages & Letters at UHM values the accomplishments of Department students who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy, and will award credit according to its policies regulating test score equivalencies. Currently, the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages & Literatures offer Seal of Biliteracy credit opportunities for the following languages: Filipino/Tagalog, Ilokano, and Vietnamese. The College further encourages Seal of Biliteracy honorees to consider continuing to develop their proficiency in their additional language through pursuing a major, minor, or certificate in a world language in their postsecondary studies.

### **What resources are available to support the use of language skills in college, career, and community development?**

The Hawai'i Language Roadmap Initiative at UHM has created resources to support multilingual students with college, career, and community readiness. Please visit <http://bit.ly/HLRResources> to access the resources.