

Wausau School District

Seal of Biliteracy Overview



What is the Seal of Biliteracy?



History of the Seal of Biliteracy

- The SoBL movement originated in California by the advocacy group *Californians Together* and passed into legislation in 2011.
- Wisconsin adopted the Seal in 2015.
- Research suggests that the potential of earning a SoBL motivates students to continue languages and has resulted in increased enrollment in world language programming.

Seal of Biliteracy

Honoring Bilingualism & Biculturalism

The Seal of Biliteracy is applied to a student's transcripts upon graduation, formally recognizing efforts to attain academic language proficiency in more than one language.

With this industry-recognized credential, the district formally acknowledges and encourages these valuable linguistic and cultural skills, gearing the opportunity toward all students.

Assessment Areas

Students are assessed across three core components to earn the seal:

- **L1:** First Language Proficiency
- **L2:** Second Language Proficiency
- **Socio-Cultural** Competency

Potential Impact



**7% of our population speaks
another language**

1,128

Students

36 Different Languages



Top 5 Languages in Wausau

735

Hmong

229

Spanish

30

Swahili

15

Mandarin

13

Vietnamese

**What are the benefits of
the Seal of Biliteracy?**

Benefits of the Seal of Biliteracy

01

Competitive edge in furthering education

02

Opportunity to earn college credit

03

Competitive edge in the workplace, greater earning potential, and economic opportunities

04

Students learn to better comprehend, accept, and value linguistic and cultural diversity

05

Values and honors students' efforts and shows them that development of more than one language is an asset that is valued

**What programs do we
already have in place?**

Programs that support Biliteracy & Bilingualism

- French, German and Spanish instruction at MS and HS levels
- Multilingual Programming at all secondary schools
 - Total ML Enrollment @ High Schools: 186 students
- AP at West
- IB at East
- French Dual Credit with UWGB

How do students qualify?

Measures of Language Proficiency and Eligibility Criteria for **English**

Students complete all English requirements for graduation AND receive one of the following evaluation results:

- A. ACT ELA:** Minimum score of 18
- B. AP Language and Composition:** Minimum score of 4
- C. IB Language B:** Score of 5 or 6
- D. ACCESS for MLs:** Literacy score of 4 or higher
- E. STAMP 4S:** Demonstrate English proficiency for current or exited MLs

Measures of Language Proficiency and Eligibility Criteria for **Languages other than English**

Students must demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods:

- A. Pass the STAMP 4S or another approved assessment (Aligned to ACTFL) in a language other than English with a level of Intermediate High or better
- B. Pass IB Language B exam with a score of 5 (Intermediate High) or 6 (Advanced Low)
- C. Pass AP Language and Culture Exam with a minimum score of 4

Measures to demonstrate sociocultural competence

Travel

- Provide evidence of Wisconsin World Language Standard Four for Intercultural Communication:

Field trips

- Use language and cultural knowledge to investigate, compare, explain, interact, and reflect on the relationships between the products, practices, and perspectives of diverse and dynamic cultures within the local and global communities.

Hosting

Guest Speakers

Community Service/Events

- Students will enter their hours of participation in EduClimber and reflect on their experience.
- The district Seal of Biliteracy coordinator will check each student on an annual basis in May.

Presentations

Readings

What will students receive?

- 1 A certificate from DPI
- 2 Seal of Biliteracy endorsement on transcript
- 3 Recognition on graduation program
- 4 Acknowledgment at senior awards



Wausau Recipients 2026 - 15 students

