

North Dakota Seal of Biliteracy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the North Dakota Seal of Biliteracy?

The North Dakota Seal of Biliteracy (NDSB) is an award presented to graduating students who have demonstrated proficiency in a language in addition to English. North Dakota offers two seals; silver and gold. Each seal has specific criteria a student must meet to receive the award. The requirements are available in the NDSB Guidance.

2. Why implement a Seal of Biliteracy?

The NDSB encourages students to develop mastery in multiple languages, 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. The NDSB sets a standard of the value in learning world languages, as well as maintaining native and heritage languages and cultures in our schools, homes, and communities.

3. What are the benefits of earning a North Dakota Seal of Biliteracy?

The NDSB recognizes students and provides an identifier of this accomplishment on the student's eTranscript for employers and post-secondary institutions.

4. What are the requirements for a North Dakota Seal of Biliteracy?

To be eligible for an NDSB award, each student shall demonstrate a minimum proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English and an additional language. Students must also demonstrate sociocultural competency as determined by each district. The assessments and required proficiency levels are as follows:

One of the following assessment options is required to demonstrate proficiency in English:

Exam	Silver	Gold
ACT	ELA 16	ELA 19
ND English Language Proficiency Assessment (ACCESS for ELLs)	3.5 in each domain AND 4.0 Composite	3.5 in each domain AND 5.0 Composite
SAT	ERW 460	ERW 480
ND State Assessment in grades 9-12	Proficient in ELA	Proficient in ELA

One of the following assessment options is required to demonstrate proficiency in a world language:

Exam	Silver	Gold
ACTFL (OPI,WPT,RPT,LPT)	IL	IH
AAPPL	I-1	I-5
ALIRA	I-1	I-4
STAMP	4	6
ASLPI	2+	3+
DELE/DELF	A2	B1

*Districts may submit a request to the NDDPI for alternative assessment requirements.

5. Can a student be awarded for multiple languages?

Yes, if a student meets the requirements for more than one language in addition to English, the student will be awarded one seal for each applicable language.

6. How can schools/districts obtain state seals and certificates?

The district must submit the NDSB Application Form with the district contact information, applicable assessment information and assurances of student eligibility and sociocultural competence to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). The application must be signed by the district Superintendent or designee. If the district has multiple students applying for the awards, please submit the Multiple Student Application Addendum with the NDSB Application Form. The application forms and information can be found on the NDSB webpage at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/IME/sealofbiliteracy/

7. Which states have adopted or offer the Seal of Biliteracy?

Information and other state programs are available at <https://sealofbiliteracy.org/>.

8. Where/when/how can students take the demonstration of knowledge in World Language exams?

Much of the information regarding test options is available from the creator or vendor of each test. The following are some resources available:

- ACTFL (IL, IH) - [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#)
- AAPL (I-1, I-5) - [Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Languages](#)
- ALIRA (I-1, I-4) - [ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment](#)
- STAMP (4, 6) – [Avant STAMP Assessment](#)
- ASLPI (2+, 3+) - [American Sign Language Proficiency Interview](#)
- DELE/DELF (A2, B1) - [DELE](#) or [DELF](#)

9. What is the minimum grade students need to be in to qualify?

Students need to be in at least grade 9 to meet the assessment requirements but must meet graduation requirements to be eligible for an NDSB.

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