



Montana Seal of Biliteracy

Language isn't a "credit to check off for graduation," but a skill that "checks you in" to future opportunities.

-Linda Egnatz

What is the Montana Seal of Biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to high school seniors who have demonstrated language proficiency in English and at least one other language. The seal was created to encourage students with a first language other than English to maintain and/or develop their home language while learning English and challenge students whose first language is English to attain proficiency in an additional world language.

Why should students apply for the Montana Seal of Biliteracy?

The Montana Seal of Biliteracy is affixed to the high school diploma, on separate certificate, and is added to the transcript of the graduating senior as evidence of proficiency in two or more languages. It provides colleges with an additional method to recognize applicants entering their language programs and highlights linguistic skills that are attractive to future employers. The seal is both incentive and recognition for an enviable life skill. Acknowledgement of language skills is a way for students to represent their identity, language, culture, and heritage.

What steps do students need to take in order to award the Seal of Biliteracy?

- Begin language instruction early and continue throughout high school
- Let your language teacher know of your interest
- Invest in every opportunity to improve your language skills
- Fulfill application requirements for English and an additional language
- Submit your application in your senior year
- Celebrate your accomplishment and continue using your language skills beyond high school

How do I get more information about the Seal of Biliteracy?

- Ask your World Language teacher, ELL teacher, counselor, or administrator.
- More information is on the Montana Board of Public Education website:
<https://bpe.mt.gov/Seal-of-Biliteracy/Seal-of-Biliteracy>