Montana Seal of Biliteracy Tribal Government
Memo of Agreement

The Board of Public Education understands that is it the duty of each tribal government to negotiate with the Federal, State, and local governments on behalf of their individual tribe. The Board believes that one of the most effective ways to invest in present and future generations is through education, which includes language and cultural perpetuation. The Board recognizes Montana's constitutional promise in Article X, Section 1 that "recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity." In establishing the Seal of Biliteracy, the Board hopes to provide additional support to Montana Tribes in the preservation of their native languages and culture.

The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The Board has determined that the process for establishing the proficiency measures and criteria of eligibility for students who may be verified for the Seal of Biliteracy in native languages is the responsibility of each tribe.

QUALIFICATIONS
The applicant for the Montana Seal of Biliteracy must meet the eligibility requirements listed below and upon meeting the qualifications, must submit an application to the Board of Public Education for approval and certification.

Eligibility requirements:
1. Student is enrolled in a Montana public school;
2. Student is on the path to graduate; and
3. Student shows proficiency in the native language.

Competency Standards:
1. Tribal government determines native language(s) to be eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy;
2. Native language proficiency is solely determined by the tribal government;
3. Tribal government determines the student's proficiency level in native language(s); and
4. Student completes English graduation requirements, as set by the Board of Public Education.

CERTIFICATION
Montana tribal governments will mirror the Class 7 Licensure process and set their own proficiency measures and criteria for awarding the Montana Seal of Biliteracy. The designated official must describe the evaluation process and give a brief illustration of what the student is able to do in the language.

The undersigned parties agree to uphold this agreement.

ATTEST:

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Chair Date
Tribal Council

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Chair Date
Board of Public Education