



# Mississippi Foreign Language Association

The Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy is Now a Reality!

The Mississippi Foreign Language Association is happy to share that the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy is now a reality for our high school graduates in the whole state of Mississippi. This achievement was a group effort by the Mississippi Foreign Language Association, the Mississippi Department of Education, and a strong group of high school teachers that collaborated and advocated the importance of recognizing the achievement of biliteracy on any language, including English.

The Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to high school graduates who have achieved Intermediate High and Advanced low levels of proficiency, as set by the American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). This award will be reflected on their transcript as proof of their language ability.

This was a community effort that could not have been possible without the support of the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, the Mississippi American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Alabama-Mississippi Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, the National Seal of Biliteracy, and the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL-NCLS).

The Mississippi Foreign Language Association has been strongly advocating for the importance of creating proficient language speakers to help increase international investment in our state, as well as, increasing exports. Currently 21% of the jobs in MS are tied to trade, 12% of the state GDP is tied to exports to Canada, Mexico, and Panama. A second language is also crucial for our national security, social justice, and diplomacy.

Below, please see the official announcement from the Mississippi Department of Education

## **Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy**

The Mississippi State Board of Education voted on Thursday, October 10, 2019, to approve a Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy policy and Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines at the local level

<https://sites.google.com/site/mississippifla/>

and guidance on the process of awarding and recognizing students who have attained proficiency in one or more World Languages and English by high school graduation.

The purpose of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy policy is to establish minimum criteria for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in awarding Seals of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes and awards students who have attained proficiency in one or more world languages and English by high school graduation. The Seal of Biliteracy demonstrates attainment of biliteracy for students, employers, and postsecondary institutions; and it signals a student's readiness for college and career and for engagement as a global citizen.

Participation in the Mississippi Department of Education's Seal of Biliteracy shall be determined by each LEA and will begin during the 2019-2020 school year. Recognition for demonstrating a level of biliteracy shall be indicated on the final high school transcript for students.

The purpose of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines is to provide assistance, examples, and resources to local school districts on the process of awarding and recognizing students who are eligible to receive a Seal of Biliteracy.

- [Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy State Board Policy](#)
- [Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines](#)

Best regards,

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