

San Diego Unified School District

Resolution for the Seal of Biliteracy

WHEREAS, preparing all students with 21st century language and communication skills is critical for college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, the study of world languages contributes toward our national economy and our national security; and

WHEREAS, the unique geographical location of San Diego indicates a need for providing rich opportunities to learn languages that hold importance for this region as well as expanding opportunities for learning those less commonly taught, critical languages with global economic and strategic significance; and

WHEREAS, building trust and understanding across the numerous language and cultural groups in our diverse San Diego community, requires multilingual communication skills; and

WHEREAS, the demand for employees to be proficient in more than one language is increasing both in California and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, proficiency in two or more languages makes important contributions to a student's cognitive development, critical thinking, and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, the California K-16 Master Plan for Education and the district's Vision 2020 for Student Success call for pupils to graduate with the ability to communicate in two or more languages; and

WHEREAS, the district seeks to promote an expanded sequence of language learning opportunities beginning in the elementary grades; recognize and honor the rich diverse language assets of all students; provide employers with a method of identifying people with multilingual and multicultural competence: and provide universities with a method of identifying and giving credit to applicants with high levels of proficiency in a second language; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the intent of the San Diego Unified School District to promote the development of multilingual and multicultural competence and to provide recognition of the attainment of those needed and important skills through the Seal of Biliteracy and the Pathway to Biliteracy Awards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to implement the Seal of Biliteracy and the Pathway to Biliteracy Awards beginning in the 2011 – 2012 school year.