

Middle School Pursuit of Bilingualism Award
Creating Pathways to the Seal of Biliteracy

Rationale:

This award is designed to recognize pursuit of language skills in two or more languages, to affirm positive attitudes towards multilingualism, and to validate the use of multiple languages for all students. Additionally, this award promotes the need for students to continue in long-term, sequential world language study in high school.

Eligible Students:

All 8th grade students, including English Fluent and English Learners, enrolled in a middle school world language course.

Requirements:*

1. Demonstrate proficiency on the California Standards Test/English Language Arts (CST/ELA) portion administered in grades 6, 7 or 8.
2. Demonstrate successful completion of two sequential years of a World Language course, which may include the Spanish for Spanish Speakers courses. (Students may demonstrate successful completion by completing one of the district's approved options for enrolling in a world language course.)
3. English Learners: English learner (EL) students must also meet the district's redesignation criteria and be reclassified to Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) by the end of 8th grade.

To receive the Middle School Pursuit of Bilingualism Award, students must also complete the following:

- Attend two cultural events.
- Prepare a multi-media presentation on the cultural event attended (cultural event may be attended anytime during 7th and 8th grade).
- Include a written reflection on the cultural events and how the experience contributes to their pursuit and interest in bilingualism.

Note: The multi-media presentation and written reflection is included with the understanding that teachers may incorporate this project into their course syllabus as an alternative performance based assessment. District staff will work with site principals and school staff to identify appropriate opportunities and venues for student to meet the cultural events requirement.

*As implementation proceeds, the requirements/criteria will be subject to modification and revision to ensure that this policy remains current and inclusive.