

Middle School Biliteracy Attainment Award
Creating Pathways to the Seal of Biliteracy

Rationale:

This award is designed to set a standard for high-level biliteracy attainment for students in a Two-Way Bilingual Immersion or Language Immersion program. Additionally, it encourages students to continue an increasingly challenging course of language study in high school.

Eligible Students:

8th grade students, including English Fluent and English Learners, enrolled in a Dual Language Immersion or Immersion program.

Requirements:*

1. Demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English (current immersion programs include Spanish, French, and Mandarin). Proficiency may be assessed by one or a combination of the following:
 - End of 8th grade portfolio presentations.
 - National Spanish and French language exams.
 - “End of Year Language Proficiency Indicators” for immersion students.
2. Receive a score of Proficient or Advanced on the California Standards Test/English Language Arts (CST/ELA) section.
3. Demonstrate ability to write coherently and with purpose in the two languages of instruction using district writing rubrics.
4. 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 Biliteracy Attainment Award, students must also complete the following:

- Attend two cultural events.
- Prepare a multi-media presentation on the cultural event attended. (Cultural events 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 or as a component of the 8th grade portfolio presentations. District staff will work with site principals and school staff to identify appropriate opportunities and venues for students 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.