

Elementary Bilingual Service Award
Creating Pathways to the Seal of Biliteracy

Rationale:

This award is designed to validate and promote the use of multiple languages for all students, acknowledge that a child's home language provides a strong foundation for academic success in English, and affirm positive attitudes towards multilingualism. Additionally, this award is designed to nurture positive self-identity and self-confidence in students as they utilize their language skills within the home, school, and neighborhood community. Furthermore, this award promotes the need for students to engage in long-term, sequential world language study at the secondary level.

Eligible Students:

All 5th grade students with a Language Other than English (LOTE) and *NOT* enrolled in a biliteracy, dual language, or language immersion program.

Requirements:*

1. Demonstrate age-appropriate oral/listening proficiency in the student's home language as measured by the Idea Proficiency Test (IPT) or the district's Observation Assessment Instrument.
2. English learners demonstrate English proficiency commensurate with Expected Overall Proficiency Level (XOPL) as measured by the CELDT.
3. Demonstrate use of the student's primary language skills in service to the school and/or community.
4. Demonstrate positive attitudes towards bilingualism.

To receive the Elementary Bilingual Service Award, students must also complete the following:

- Minimum of 15 hours of school/community service in grades 3 - 5.
- Multi-media presentation in which:
 - a) students describe and relate their school/community service experiences,
 - b) students reflect on the importance and benefits of bilingualism.

Note: The district's Literacy Units of Inquiry include a culminating research project. The multi-media presentation is included with the understanding that this expectation can be incorporated into the research project. District staff will work with site principals and school staff to identify appropriate opportunities and venues for students to complete their community service.

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