

# 2019 National Seal of Biliteracy Report for 2017-2018 Academic Year

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## Executive Summary

This report is the first attempt to publish a national report on the Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy movement started in California in 2009 as a grassroots movement to reverse the deficit view of English Learners to instead honor and recognize them for their proficiency in English and another language while preparing all students for global citizenship. As of March 1, 2019, **thirty-six states plus Washington, D.C.** established their state Seal of Biliteracy. We collected data from the District of Columbia and twenty-three states (Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, and Washington) for this report. Fourteen states (Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) are still working on establishing their state Seal of Biliteracy. Eight states (Massachusetts, Michigan, Tennessee, Iowa, Arkansas, South Carolina, Maine, North Dakota) are in their first year of implementing their state Seal of Biliteracy, so they don't have any data to report.

There were **91,433** students who received the state Seal of Biliteracy in 2018, representing **66** world languages including: American Sign Language, Arabic, Albanian, Amharic, Bosnian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bambara, Bengali, Bulgarian, Burmese, Chin, Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin), Croatian, Dari, Dutch, Farsi/Persian, Filipino/Tagalog, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Keres, Korean, Latin, Lithuanian, Malay, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Oromo, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Rohingya, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala, Slovak, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tibetan, Tigrinya, Tiwa, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Zuni. Four states did not report their data. (Colorado, Rhode Island, Texas, and Wisconsin).

The state with the most Seal of Biliteracy recipients was California, with 47,248 students who received the California Seal of Biliteracy in 2018. North Carolina had the second highest number of students who received the Seal of Biliteracy with 9,291, about 9% of high school graduates in 2018. Illinois had 7,601 students who received the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy and 4,328 received the commendation toward biliteracy. Washington recognized the most diverse languages—59 languages in total.

Here is the number break down by state:

<b>State</b>	<b>State Seal of Biliteracy Recipients</b>
AZ	940
CA	47,248
CT	1,232
DE	114
DC	179
GA	2,081
HI	135
IL	7,601
IN	577
KS	277
LA	404
MD	2,058
MN	870
MO	421
NJ	3,708
NM	681
NY	1,794
NV	1,675
NC	9,291
OR	1,621
OH	540
UT	199
VA	5,789
WA	1,998
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,433</b>

The equity for English Learner students is an important focus for the Seal of Biliteracy movement. Most states did not collect data on their English Learners/Former English Learners in 2018. Without this data from all the states, the decision was made not to publish the partial data. The 2020 National Seal of Biliteracy report will have more comprehensive data on all these subgroups.

We want to thank the Department of Education of these twenty-two states plus the District of Columbia who provided the data for this report. Special thanks to Ph.D. student from the University of Wisconsin Arun Kolar who helped us collect the data as well. This report would not have happened without his support. Data is presented by state in alphabetical order.

## **Arizona**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

940 from 20 LEAs

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Spanish: 785

French: 62

Mandarin: 7

German: 3

Navajo: 11

Japanese: 2

Hebrew: 1

Russian: 1

## **California**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

47,248

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Spanish

German

French

Latin

Cantonese

Mandarin

American Sign Language

Vietnamese

Korean

Japanese

Others

## **Connecticut**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

1,232 recipients of the Seal of Biliteracy in 33 Connecticut districts with approximately 2,192 attempts.

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Not available.

### **Delaware**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

For the 2017-18 school year, Delaware awarded 114 Certificates of Multiliteracy (86 Gold and 28 Diamond) to students from seven Delaware school districts and two charter schools in eight languages.

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Arabic: 1  
Chinese: 12  
French: 8  
Haitian Creole: 1  
Italian: 2  
Korean: 1  
Russian: 1  
Spanish: 87  
Urdu: 1

### **District of Columbia**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

179 students

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Chinese: 10  
French: 16  
Italian: <10  
Latin: 10  
Spanish: 141  
Hungarian: <10

### **Georgia**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

2,081 from 67 LEAs

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

SSB award by language: Number of students awarded the SSB (Number of districts that awarded a Seal of Biliteracy in the specified language)

Spanish: 1,629 (33 districts reporting)  
German: 86 (7 districts reporting)  
French: 300 (9 districts reporting)  
Chinese: 23 (6 districts reporting)  
Latin: 26 (4 districts reporting)  
Bulgarian: 1 (1 district reporting)  
Portuguese: 4 (3 districts reporting)  
Vietnamese: 4 (2 districts reporting)  
Cambodian: 1 (1 district reporting)  
Japanese: 6 (1 district reporting)  
Arabic: 1 (1 district reporting)

### Hawaii

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

135

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Not available.

### Illinois

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

SSB: 7,601

Commendation toward Biliteracy: 4,328

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Language	2017 % of Total	2018 % of Total	2017 # of Students Awarded SSB	2018 # of Students Awarded SSB
Spanish	SSB: 85%	SSB: 74%	SSB: 3,777	SSB: 5,649

	Commendation: 79%	Commendation: 76%	Commendation: 2,055	Commendation: 3,300
Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese)	SSB: 3%  Commendation: 3%	SSB: 4%  Commendation: 4%	SSB: 112  Commendation: 78	SSB: 320  Commendation: 190
French	SSB: 6%  Commendation: 10%	SSB: 10%  Commendation: 9%	SSB: 95  Commendation: 104	SSB: 246  Commendation: 268
German	SSB: 2%  Commendation: 3%	SSB: 3%  Commendation: 3%		
Italian	SSB: <1%  Commendation: 1%	SSB: 2%  Commendation: 2%		
Polish	SSB: 1%  Commendation: 0%	SSB: 2%  Commendation: 2%		
Arabic	SSB: <1%  Commendation: <1%	SSB: 1%  Commendation: 1%		
Latin	SSB: 1%  Commendation: 2%	SSB: <1%  Commendation: <1%		
Other	SSB: 2%  Commendation: 1%	SSB: 4%  Commendation: 3%		

Other: Albanian, American Sign Language (ASL), Bulgarian, Farsi, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Lithuanian, Malayalam, Marathi, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese

## Indiana

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

577

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Russian, Spanish, Mandarin, and Punjabi.

## Kansas

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

277

### **Participating Districts: 16**

Proficiency Levels:

Intermediate Mid: 229

Advanced Low+: 48 (17%)

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Spanish: 201

French: 54

German: 14

Latin: 5

Japanese: 3

Arabic: 1

## Louisiana

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

404

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

French: 136

German: 12

Latin: 35

Spanish: 221

## Maryland

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

2,058. There were 17 of the 24 school systems that participated.

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Amharic

Arabic

Armenian

Bengali

Chinese

Farsi

Filipino (Tagalog)

French

German

Greek

Hebrew

Hindi

Italian

Japanese

Korean

Latin

Portuguese

Russian

Spanish

Swedish

Ukrainian

Vietnamese



**Minnesota (Minneapolis PSD ONLY—No Data from other districts)**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

870

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

ASL  
Arabic  
Mandarin Chinese  
French  
German  
Hmong  
Japanese  
Korean  
Portuguese  
Russian  
Oromo  
Somali  
Spanish  
Hindi  
Thai  
Italian

**Missouri**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

421. Dual Seals: 3 (1- French & Spanish; 1- Russian & Spanish; 1- Spanish & German)  
Participating Districts: 40

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Spanish-263  
Spanish Distinguished-38  
German- 32  
German Distinguished- 7  
French- 50  
French Distinguished- 12  
Mandarin- 1  
Russian- 8  
Uzbek- 1  
Korean Distinguished- 1  
Arabic- 2

Latin- 5  
Albanian- 1

### Nevada

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

1,675 from

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

SSB award by Language: Number of students awarded the SSB (Number of districts that awarded a Seal of Biliteracy in the specified language)

Spanish: 1,473 (6 districts reporting)  
German: 8 (1 district reporting)  
French: 300 (9 districts reporting)  
Chinese: 51 (2 districts reporting)  
English: 4 (1 district reporting)  
Filipino: 14 (2 districts reporting)  
Portuguese: 4 (2 districts reporting)  
Italian: 1 (1 district reporting)  
Japanese: 21 (1 district reporting)  
Arabic: 2 (2 districts reporting)  
Other: 22 (2 districts reporting)

### New Mexico

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

681

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Las Cruces Public Schools	Spanish: 56
	Japanese*
	French: 16
	German*
Clovis Municipal Schools	Spanish*
Bloomfield School District	Spanish*
Gadsden Independent School District	Spanish: 26

Hatch Valley Public Schools	Spanish: 10
Loving Municipal Schools	Spanish*
ACE Leadership High School	Spanish: 13
Gallup McKinley County Schools	Spanish*
Santa Fe Public Schools	Spanish: 58
Española Public Schools	Spanish*
	Tiwa*
Lovington Municipal Schools	Spanish: 23
Farmington Municipal Schools	Spanish: 13
	French*
Roswell Independent School District	Spanish*
Deming Public Schools	Spanish: 23
Rio Rancho Public Schools	Spanish: 21
	Chinese*
	French*
	Italian*
Portales Municipal Schools	Spanish: 19
Taos Municipal Schools	Spanish: 24
	French*
	Tiwa*
Monte del Sol Charter School	Spanish*
Albuquerque Public Schools	Spanish: 286
	French*
Bernalillo Public Schools	Spanish: 16
	Keres*
Zuni Public Schools	Zuni*

Asterisk (\*) indicates that at least 1 but less than 10 students in the school district were awarded the SSB in that particular language.

### **New Jersey**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

3,708

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

American Sign Language (ASL)

Korean

Arabic

Latin

Chinese

Polish

French

Portuguese

German

Punjab

Greek

Russian

Haitian Creole

Spanish

Hebrew

Turkish

Hindi

Urdu

Italian

Vietnamese

Japanese

### **New York**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

1,794

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Arabic

ASL

Azerbaijani

Bangla/Bengali

Bulgarian

Burmese

Chin  
Chinese  
Croatian  
Dari  
Dutch  
French  
German  
Greek  
Gujarati  
Haitian Creole  
Hebrew  
Italian  
Korean  
Latin  
Malay  
Mandarin  
Nepali  
Polish  
Portuguese  
Punjabi  
Rohingya  
Russian  
Somali  
Spanish  
Swahili  
Tagalog  
Thai  
Tigrinya  
Turkish  
Ukrainian  
Urdu  
Vietnamese

### **North Carolina**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

*North Carolina had 9,291 students, or 9.0% of the Class of 2018 across the state, who earned the Global Languages Endorsement (GLE), North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy. The data show that 80% of our 115 districts, and 46% of our charter schools with a high school, had students who were recognized.*

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

*So far, the GLE, NC's Seal of Biliteracy, has recognized graduates with proficiency in 13 World Languages:*

American Sign Language  
Arabic  
Chinese  
French  
German  
Hebrew  
Italian  
Japanese  
Latin  
Persian  
Russian  
Spanish  
Swahili

*Details for 2015-2018 about the number of students per district and charter school who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy, as well as the languages, are posted on the NC Seal of Biliteracy webpage at <http://bit.ly/NCsealGLE> .*

## **Ohio**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

Ohio conferred 540 seals of Biliteracy in the public-school sector and an indeterminate number of Seal of Biliteracy in the non-public school sector.

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Spanish: 395  
French: 84  
German: 23  
Latin: 19  
Chinese: 7  
Hebrew: 2  
Russian: 2  
Albanian: 1  
Arabic: 1  
Italian: 1

## Oregon

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

1,621—The number of students who earned the Seal this past year, up from 990 last year.

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

17—The number of different partner languages in which our students were literate.

33—Different primary/home languages spoken by students.

Amharic: 3  
 Arabic: 7  
 Bosnian: 1  
 Chinese: 59  
 Filipino: 1  
 French: 105  
 German: 31  
 Japanese: 59  
 Korean: 1  
 Mandarin: 33  
 Persian: 1  
 Romanian: 7  
 Russian :96  
 Spanish: 1,197  
 Swahili: 1  
 Ukrainian: 22  
 Vietnamese: 12

Student Count: Partner Languages	Student Count: Primary Languages	
Amharic – 3	Albanian - 1	Kannada – 1
Arabic – 7	Amharic – 3	Marathi – 1
Bosnian – 1	Arabic – 3	Other – 1
Chinese – 59	Bambara – 1	Persian – 1
Filipino – 1	Bengali – 1	Romanian – 8
French – 105	Chinese – 34	Russian – 83

German – 31	Dutch – 2	Sinhala – 1
Japanese – 59	English – 718	Somali – 1
Korean – 1	Finnish – 1	Spanish – 645
Mandarin – 33	French – 6	Tamil – 3
Persian – 1	German – 2	Thai – 1
Romanian – 7	Gujarati – 2	Tibetan – 1
Russian – 96	Hebrew – 3	Urdu – 1
Spanish – 1,197	Hindi – 3	Ukrainian – 37
Swahili – 1	Indo – 4	Vietnamese - 27
Ukrainian – 22	Italian – 1	
Vietnamese - 12	Japanese - 11	

### Utah

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

199

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

American Sign Language: 11

French: 36

Korean: 1

Latin: 4

Mandarin: 17

Navajo: 1

Spanish: 129

### Virginia

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

5,789

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*



*Not available.*

## **Washington**

*How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?*

1,998 from 81 LEAs

*What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?*

Total Languages Tested, SY 2018: 59

Top 5 Languages Tested, SY 2018: (Descending Order)

Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, French, Mandarin Chinese

Top 5 "Other Languages" Tested, SY 2018: (Descending Order)

Tagalog (Filipino), German, Japanese, Korean Ukrainian