

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A SEAL OF BILITERACY FOR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS AND TRANSCRIPTS

Submitted by the CFT English Language Learners Committee

Whereas, mastery of two or more languages makes important contributions to a student's cognitive development, understanding of diverse cultures, and economic opportunities;

Whereas, the study of two or more languages makes important contributions to a student's cognitive development of diverse cultures, and economic opportunities;

Whereas, the study of world languages contributes towards our national economy and our national security;

Whereas, multiple languages are a critical element in enabling our city and state to participate effectively in a global political, social and economic context;

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

Whereas, our state is home to speakers from hundreds of different language and cultural groups, and to build trust and understanding across the multiple language and cultural groups in our diverse community requires multilingual skills of communication;

Whereas, despite the 2007 veto by Governor Schwarzenegger of AB 280, several districts throughout the state, including Glendale Unified, Ventura Unified, Rowland Unified and Sweetwater Union High School District are awarding graduates with a seal of biliteracy and all students deserve the same opportunity.

Whereas, *Californians Together*, a statewide coalition committed to securing equal access to quality education for all children has developed a *Seal of Biliteracy Program* and implementation guidelines for pupils who graduate literate in two or more languages.

Be it resolved that the CFT encourage it's locals to work with their districts to implement a seal of biliteracy on high school diplomas and transcripts;

Be it further resolved that the CFT seek legislation to establish a state level seal of biliteracy on high school graduates;

Be it finally resolved that the CFT publicize a seal of biliteracy on high school diplomas and transcripts via media campaign.