

SAMPLE ‘SEAL OF BILITERACY’ RESOLUTION

Preamble and Rationale:

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 foreign 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 community 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 the California K-16 Master Plan for Education calls for pupils to graduate literate in two or more languages

Therefore, it is the intent of our district to promote the development of literacy in two or more languages and to provide recognition of the attainment of those needed and important skills through the establishment of a Seal of Biliteracy on the high school diplomas or transcripts of pupils attaining functional proficiency in one or more languages, in addition to English. Through the establishment of this Seal of Biliteracy, the district seeks to:

- encourage pupils to develop biliteracy skills
- provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills
- revitalize and promote foreign language instruction in our schools
- encourage the development of dual language immersion programs, and foreign, native and heritage language programs in schools
- recognize and honor our rich and diverse language assets

The SEAL shall be awarded by the Superintendent to pupils who complete the requirements for a high school diploma and who meet all of the following requirements:

If the primary language of a pupil is English, he or she shall pass the California Standards Test in English Language Arts administered in grade 11 at a proficient level or above AND do either of the following:

- (1) Successfully complete four years of instruction in a foreign language
- (2) Pass a foreign language Advanced Placement (AP) test with a score of three or higher

If the primary language of a pupil is other than English, he or she shall do all of the following:

- (1) Pass the California Standards Test in English Language Arts administered in grade 11 at the proficient level or higher
- (2) Attain the advanced proficiency level on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT).
- (3) Pass an AP test in the pupil's heritage language with a score of four or above, or pass a primary language test administered in grade 11, when available, at the proficient level or above.

Note:

For languages in which an AP test is not available, equivalent summative tests may be used in place of an AP test