

Sonoma Valley Unified School District
Resolution No. 11-34: *SEAL OF BILITERACY*

Rationale:

The Sonoma Valley Unified School District upholds that the mastery of two or more languages makes important contributions to a student's cognitive development, understanding of diverse cultures, and economic opportunities.

WHEREAS, literacy in two or more languages represents a challenging academic standard;

WHEREAS, developing a child's home language is a strong foundation for academic literacy in English;

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

WHEREAS bilingualism builds trust and understanding across languages and cultural groups in our community;

WHEREAS, the study of world languages prepares students to communicate 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;

The Sonoma Valley Unified District hereby adopts a *Seal of Biliteracy* to be placed on high school diplomas and transcripts of pupils who have attained high levels of proficiency in English and one other language. Additionally, *Pathway to Biliteracy* awards will be established to recognize mastery of significant bilingual benchmarks at the elementary and middle school levels. Through the implementation of this *Seal of Biliteracy*, the district seeks to:

- encourage pupils to develop biliteracy skills;
- revitalize and promote world and heritage language instruction in our schools;
- encourage the development of K-12 dual language immersion programs in our schools;
- recognize and honor our rich and diverse language assets;
- provide universities and employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District, Sonoma County, California, approved the *Seal of Biliteracy*, effective immediately.

ADOPTED this 8th day of March, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: _____ **NOES:** _____ **ABSENT/NOT VOTING:** _____

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct resolution duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District.

President
Sonoma Valley Unified School District

Attest:

Secretary of the Board