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.

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President
Sonoma Valley Unified School District

Attest:

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Secretary of the Board