

SWEETWATER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

CLASSIFICATION: Instruction

REGULATION: 6404.4

SUBJECT: High School Diploma: Recognition
in Biliteracy

ADOPTED: April 2, 2004

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: Instructional Support
Services

REVISED: May 6, 2008

REFERENCE: Board Policy 6404

NEXT REVIEW: 2011

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I. Philosophy

Students who are proficient in two languages and have completed the required sequence of courses and/or exams with the required grades and/scores, may earn a diploma with "Recognition in Biliteracy."

II. Definition of Biliteracy

- A. Biliteracy is defined as the development of academic proficiency in the student's primary language, simultaneous with the development of language and academic proficiencies in a second language.
- B. Biliteracy requires students to express themselves with clarity and cogency to be successful in academically rigorous courses. The biliterate student has the ability to read, write, compute, and think critically at a high level of proficiency in at least two languages.
- C. Biliteracy provides the individual with the ability to understand and participate in academics and discuss any issue.

III. Course of Study and Other Requirements

- A. High schools that wish to offer a diploma with recognition in biliteracy must meet the following criteria:
 - 1. A bilingual program must be offered at the high school and/or the feeder middle school(s) with adequate numbers of courses to meet the ~~four-year~~ requirements of this course of study.
 - 2. The AP exams in English, Spanish Literature, and Spanish Language must be offered and supported at the school.
 - 3. The teaching staff must hold the proper credentials in the content areas in the course of study.

4. The counseling staff must monitor and verify the completion of the required courses to receive the high school diploma with recognition in biliteracy.
 5. The school principal will also verify the requirements and recognize the qualified students at the high school graduation and award ceremonies.
- B. Academic proficiency requires that the student candidates for the diploma with recognition in biliteracy complete the district requirements for graduation, as well as, the requirements ("a" to "g") for entrance into the University of California or California State University systems.
- C. Forty-four units of credit are required for graduation in the Sweetwater Union High School District. Each semester course is worth one unit. Thirty-four to 36 units are required courses, and eight to ten units may be in elective areas.
- D. A specialized sequence of courses will be offered at high schools and middle schools that have the resources needed to provide the biliteracy curriculum. Exhibit I outlines the required courses.
- E. For students whose first language is not English, a passing score on an AP World Language or Literature exam in their first language is required.
- F. For students who have Pilipino as their first language, a grade of "B" is required in Tagalog 7/8.
- G. For students whose first language is English, one of the following is required.
1. A passing score on the AP English Language exam
 2. A score of Proficient or Advanced on the 11th grade California Standards Test in English Language Arts.
- H. Alternatively, a student may be awarded the diploma with recognition in biliteracy by satisfying the criteria in paragraphs B,C,(E or F), and G.

Exhibit I

Course Requirements for High School Diploma with Recognition in Biliteracy

UC Category	Subjects	¹ Years Required in L ₁	Years Required in English	Additional Years Required in Either Language	Minimum Scholastic Grade Required	Grade Taken / Completed
A	History / Social Science	1	1	2	2.0	7 – 12
B	English		4		2.0	9 – 12
C	Math	1	1	1	2.0	7 – 12
D	Science	1	1		2.0	7 – 12
E	World Language	2*			2.0	7 – 12
F	Visual / Performing Arts			1	2.0	7 – 12
G	College Prep. Electives			1	2.0	9 – 12
	Must meet all other SUHSD graduation requirements				2.5 GPA	

¹L₁ indicates the student's first language. Currently in SUHSD schools, bilingual core content courses are only offered in Spanish.

*For Spanish speakers, the appropriate two courses would be Spanish for Spanish Speakers and AP Spanish. For Tagalog speakers, the two courses would be Tagalog 5/6 and 7/8. (UC/CSU require two years of the same language)