

VISION

Prepare students to become
21st century global citizens in
a multicultural, multilingual
world

WHAT IS BILITERACY?

The ability to speak, read,
and write in two languages at
a proficient level

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Multilingual Education

Achievement of Biliteracy Program



Achievement of
Biliteracy for Eligible
Students



The Achievement of Biliteracy is an award given by the San Joaquin County Office of Education in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The Achievement of Biliteracy is a statement of accomplishment for gaining competency in two or more languages, and is viewed as an asset when applying for college admission.

GOALS

In awarding the Achievement of Biliteracy to graduating seniors who have met the requirements, the San Joaquin County Office of Education seeks to:

- Encourage students to develop and maintain bilingual and biliterate skills;
- Recognize and honor our rich and diverse language assets;
- Promote world language instruction in our schools;
- Promote the development of language and cultural appreciation and cross-cultural understanding;
- Encourage the development of dual language immersion programs, as well as foreign, native, and heritage language programs in schools;
- Provide employers with a method of identifying people with bilingual and biliterate skills.

ELIGIBILITY: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Achievement of Biliteracy will be awarded to graduating seniors in San Joaquin County districts who have mastered standard academic English and any other language. Students wishing to receive the Achievement of Biliteracy must submit an application form to their school district and meet the following six requirements:

- 1) Complete all high school graduation requirements.
- 2) Earn a score of proficient or higher on both sections of the CAHSEE and on their English-Language Arts California Standards Test.
- 3) Maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher as of fall semester, senior year.
- 4) Submit a 200 word typed essay in a language other than English as to the importance of being bilingual and biliterate in the 21st century.
- 5) Complete 20 hours in a service activity requiring the use of a language other than English in your school or in the community, and provide verification of this.
- 6) Demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English by fulfilling one of the six options.

MIDDLE and ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

“Pathway” awards toward biliteracy attainment are presented to Middle school and Elementary students who meet the criteria.

OPTIONS TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY:

- a Attain a score of “3” or higher on a College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Examination in a language other than English.
OR
- b Attain a score of “4” or higher on an International Baccalaureate (IB) Examination in a language other than English.
OR
- c Complete the district’s approved consecutive four-year course of study in the same foreign language, and attain an overall GPA of 3.0 or above in those courses (verified by transcript).
OR
- d Earn a passing score on a district-approved Bilingual Competency Examination (verified by district test results).
OR
- e Pass a foreign government’s approved language exam, or a nation’s high school level standardized exam in a language from a country in which the language is taught in school.
OR
- f Provide an official transcript from a foreign school or other official documents indicating that a student completed two years of secondary schooling study in the target language where the target language was the medium of instruction and the student received a grade of B or higher.