

2019 National Seal of Biliteracy Report for 2017-2018 Academic Year

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Executive Summary

This report is our first attempt to give a national report on the Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy movement started in California in 2009 as a grassroots movement to address the language equity for ELL students and prepare all students for global citizenship. As of March 1, 2019, **thirty-six states plus Washington, D.C.** established their state Seal of Biliteracy. Fourteen states (Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) are still working on establishing their state Seal of Biliteracy. Eight states (Massachusetts, Michigan, Tennessee, Iowa, Arkansas, South Carolina, Maine, North Dakota) are in their first year of implementing their state Seal of Biliteracy, so they won't have any data to report. We can only collect data from the District of Columbia and twenty-two states (Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington) for this report.

There are **99,595** students who received the state Seal of Biliteracy in 2018, representing **66** world languages including: American Sign Language, Arabic, Albanian, Amharic, Bosnian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bambara, Bengali, Bulgarian, Burmese, Chin, Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin), Croatian, Dari, Dutch, Farsi/Persian, Filipino/Tagalog, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Keres, Korean, Latin, Lithuanian, Malay, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Oromo, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Rohingya, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala, Slovak, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tibetan, Tigrinya, Tiwa, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Zuni. Since we failed to collect data from 5 states (Colorado, Rhode Island, Utah, Texas, and Wisconsin), we believe that there were more than 100,00 students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018.

The state with the most Seal of Biliteracy recipients is California, with 55,609 students who received the California Seal of Biliteracy in 2018. North Carolina has the second highest number of students who received the Seal of Biliteracy with 9,291, about 9% of high school graduates in 2018. Illinois has 7,601 students who received the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy and 4,328 received the commendation toward biliteracy. Washington has the most diverse languages—59 languages in total.

Here is the number break down by state:

State	State Seal of Biliteracy Recipients
AZ	940
CA	55,609
CT	1,232
DE	114
DC	179
GA	2,081
HI	135
IL	7,601
IN	577
KS	277
LA	404
MD	2,058
MN	870
MO	421
NJ	3,708
NM	681
NY	1,794
NV	1,675
NC	9,291
OR	1,621
OH	540
VA	5,789
WA	1,998
Total	99,595

The equity for English Learner students is important for the Seal of Biliteracy movement. Most states have not collected their English Learner/Former English Learner data in 2018. We decided not to publish the partial data. The 2019 National Seal of Biliteracy report will have the English Learner data.

We want to thank the Department of Education of these twenty-two states plus the District of Columbia who provided the data for this report. Special thanks to Ph.D. student from the University of Wisconsin Arun Kolar who helped us collect the data as well. This report would not have happened without his support. Data is presented by state in alphabetical order.

Arizona

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

940 from 20 LEAs

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Spanish: 785

French: 62

Mandarin: 7

German: 3

Navajo: 11

Japanese: 2

Hebrew: 1

Russian: 1

California

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

55,609

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Spanish: 42,412

German: 565

French: 4,530

Latin: 513

Cantonese: 111

Mandarin: 3,093

American Sign Language: 845

Vietnamese: 647

Korean: 647

Japanese: 1,068

Other: 783

Connecticut

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

1,232 recipients of the Seal of Biliteracy in 33 Connecticut districts with approximately 2,192 attempts.

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Not available.

Delaware

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

For the 2017-18 school year, Delaware awarded 114 Certificates of Multiliteracy (86 Gold and 28 Diamond) to students from seven Delaware school districts and two charter schools in eight languages.

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Arabic: 1
Chinese: 12
French: 8
Haitian Creole: 1
Italian: 2
Korean: 1
Russian: 1
Spanish: 87
Urdu: 1

District of Columbia

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

179 students

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Chinese: 10
French: 16
Italian: <10
Latin: 10
Spanish: 141
Hungarian: <10

Georgia

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

2,081 from 67 LEAs

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

SSB award by language: Number of students awarded the SSB (Number of districts that awarded a Seal of Biliteracy in the specified language)

Spanish: 1,629 (33 districts reporting)
 German: 86 (7 districts reporting)
 French: 300 (9 districts reporting)
 Chinese: 23 (6 districts reporting)
 Latin: 26 (4 districts reporting)
 Bulgarian: 1 (1 district reporting)
 Portuguese: 4 (3 districts reporting)
 Vietnamese: 4 (2 districts reporting)
 Cambodian: 1 (1 district reporting)
 Japanese: 6 (1 district reporting)
 Arabic: 1 (1 district reporting)

Hawaii

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

135

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Not available.

Illinois

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

SSB: 7,601

Commendation toward Biliteracy: 4,328

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Language	2017 % of Total	2018 % of Total	2017 # of Students Awarded SSB	2018 # of Students Awarded SSB
Spanish	SSB: 85% Commendation: 79%	SSB: 74% Commendation: 76%	SSB: 3,777 Commendation: 2,055	SSB: 5,649 Commendation: 3,300

Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese)	SSB: 3% Commendation: 3%	SSB: 4% Commendation: 4%	SSB: 112 Commendation: 78	SSB: 320 Commendation: 190
French	SSB: 6% Commendation: 10%	SSB: 10% Commendation: 9%	SSB: 95 Commendation: 104	SSB: 246 Commendation: 268
German	SSB: 2% Commendation: 3%	SSB: 3% Commendation: 3%		
Italian	SSB: <1% Commendation: 1%	SSB: 2% Commendation: 2%		
Polish	SSB: 1% Commendation: 0%	SSB: 2% Commendation: 2%		
Arabic	SSB: <1% Commendation: <1%	SSB: 1% Commendation: 1%		
Latin	SSB: 1% Commendation: 2%	SSB: <1% Commendation: <1%		
Other	SSB: 2% Commendation: 1%	SSB: 4% Commendation: 3%		

Other: Albanian, American Sign Language (ASL), Bulgarian, Farsi, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Lithuanian, Malayalam, Marathi, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese

Indiana

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

577

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Russian, Spanish, Mandarin, and Punjabi.

Kansas

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

277

Participating Districts: 16

Proficiency Levels:

Intermediate Mid: 229

Advanced Low+: 48 (17%)

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Spanish: 201

French: 54

German: 14

Latin: 5

Japanese: 3

Arabic: 1

Louisiana

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

404

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

French: 136

German: 12

Latin: 35

Spanish: 221

Maryland

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

2,058. There were 17 of the 24 school systems that participated.

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Amharic

Arabic

Armenian

Bengali

Chinese

Farsi

Filipino (Tagalog)

French

German

Greek

Hebrew

Hindi

Italian

Japanese

Korean

Latin

Portuguese

Russian

Spanish

Swedish

Ukrainian

Vietnamese

Minnesota (Minneapolis PSD ONLY—No Data from other districts)

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

870

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

ASL
Arabic
Mandarin Chinese
French
German
Hmong
Japanese
Korean
Portuguese
Russian
Oromo
Somali
Spanish
Hindi
Thai
Italian

Missouri

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

421. Dual Seals: 3 (1- French & Spanish; 1- Russian & Spanish; 1- Spanish & German)
Participating Districts: 40

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Spanish-263
Spanish Distinguished-38
German- 32
German Distinguished- 7
French- 50
French Distinguished- 12
Mandarin- 1
Russian- 8
Uzbek- 1
Korean Distinguished- 1
Arabic- 2
Latin- 5
Albanian- 1

Nevada

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

1,675 from

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

SSB award by Language: Number of students awarded the SSB (Number of districts that awarded a Seal of Biliteracy in the specified language)

Spanish: 1,473 (6 districts reporting)

German: 8 (1 district reporting)

French: 300 (9 districts reporting)

Chinese: 51 (2 districts reporting)

English: 4 (1 district reporting)

Filipino: 14 (2 districts reporting)

Portuguese: 4 (2 districts reporting)

Italian: 1 (1 district reporting)

Japanese: 21 (1 district reporting)

Arabic: 2 (2 districts reporting)

Other: 22 (2 districts reporting)

New Mexico

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

681

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Las Cruces Public Schools	Spanish: 56
	Japanese*
	French: 16
	German*
Clovis Municipal Schools	Spanish*
Bloomfield School District	Spanish*
Gadsden Independent School District	Spanish: 26
Hatch Valley Public Schools	Spanish: 10

Loving Municipal Schools	Spanish*
ACE Leadership High School	Spanish: 13
Gallup McKinley County Schools	Spanish*
Santa Fe Public Schools	Spanish: 58
Española Public Schools	Spanish*
	Tiwa*
Lovington Municipal Schools	Spanish: 23
Farmington Municipal Schools	Spanish: 13
	French*
Roswell Independent School District	Spanish*
Deming Public Schools	Spanish: 23
Rio Rancho Public Schools	Spanish: 21
	Chinese*
	French*
	Italian*
Portales Municipal Schools	Spanish: 19
Taos Municipal Schools	Spanish: 24
	French*
	Tiwa*
Monte del Sol Charter School	Spanish*
Albuquerque Public Schools	Spanish: 286
	French*
Bernalillo Public Schools	Spanish: 16
	Keres*
Zuni Public Schools	Zuni*

Asterisk (*) indicates that at least 1 but less than 10 students in the school district were awarded the SSB in that particular language.

New Jersey

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

3,708

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

American Sign Language (ASL)

Korean

Arabic

Latin

Chinese

Polish

French

Portuguese

German

Punjab

Greek

Russian

Haitian Creole

Spanish

Hebrew

Turkish

Hindi

Urdu

Italian

Vietnamese

Japanese

New York

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

1,794

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Arabic

ASL

Azerbaijani

Bangla/Bengali

Bulgarian

Burmese

Chin

Chinese

Croatian

Dari
Dutch
French
German
Greek
Gujarati
Haitian Creole
Hebrew
Italian
Korean
Latin
Malay
Mandarin
Nepali
Polish
Portuguese
Punjabi
Rohingya
Russian
Somali
Spanish
Swahili
Tagalog
Thai
Tigrinya
Turkish
Ukrainian
Urdu
Vietnamese

North Carolina

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

North Carolina had 9,291 students, or 9.0% of the Class of 2018 across the state, who earned the Global Languages Endorsement (GLE), North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy. The data show that 80% of our 115 districts, and 46% of our charter schools with a high school, had students who were recognized.

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

So far, the GLE, NC's Seal of Biliteracy, has recognized graduates with proficiency in 13 World Languages:

American Sign Language
Arabic
Chinese
French
German
Hebrew
Italian
Japanese
Latin
Persian
Russian
Spanish
Swahili

Details for 2015-2018 about the number of students per district and charter school who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy, as well as the languages, are posted on the NC Seal of Biliteracy webpage at <http://bit.ly/NCsealGLE> .

Ohio

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

Ohio conferred 540 seals of Biliteracy in the public-school sector and an indeterminate number of Seal of Biliteracy in the non-public school sector.

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Spanish: 395
French: 84
German: 23
Latin: 19
Chinese: 7
Hebrew: 2
Russian: 2
Albanian: 1
Arabic: 1
Italian: 1

Oregon

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

1,621—The number of students who earned the Seal this past year, up from 990 last year.

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

17—The number of different partner languages in which our students were literate.

33—Different primary/home languages spoken by students.

Amharic: 3
 Arabic: 7
 Bosnian: 1
 Chinese: 59
 Filipino: 1
 French: 105
 German: 31
 Japanese: 59
 Korean: 1
 Mandarin: 33
 Persian: 1
 Romanian: 7
 Russian :96
 Spanish: 1,197
 Swahili: 1
 Ukrainian: 22
 Vietnamese: 12

Student Count: Partner Languages	Student Count: Primary Languages	
Amharic – 3	Albanian - 1	Kannada – 1
Arabic – 7	Amharic – 3	Marathi – 1
Bosnian – 1	Arabic – 3	Other – 1
Chinese – 59	Bambara – 1	Persian – 1
Filipino – 1	Bengali – 1	Romanian – 8
French – 105	Chinese – 34	Russian – 83
German – 31	Dutch – 2	Sinhala – 1
Japanese – 59	English – 718	Somali – 1

Korean – 1	Finnish – 1	Spanish – 645
Mandarin – 33	French – 6	Tamil – 3
Persian – 1	German – 2	Thai – 1
Romanian – 7	Gujarati – 2	Tibetan – 1
Russian – 96	Hebrew – 3	Urdu – 1
Spanish – 1,197	Hindi – 3	Ukrainian – 37
Swahili – 1	Indo – 4	Vietnamese - 27
Ukrainian – 22	Italian – 1	
Vietnamese - 12	Japanese - 11	

Virginia

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

5,789

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Not available.

Washington

How many students received the Seal of Biliteracy in 2018?

1,998 from 81 LEAs

What languages were they awarded for? Do you have number of students per language?

Total Languages Tested, SY 2018: 59

Top 5 Languages Tested, SY 2018: (Descending Order)

Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, French, Mandarin Chinese

Top 5 "Other Languages" Tested, SY 2018: (Descending Order)

Tagalog (Filipino), German, Japanese, Korean Ukrainian