



Georgia Department of Education

World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives Newsletter

Fall 2017

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Georgia Department of Education's World Language and Global Workforce Initiatives Newsletter for this year! We are so excited about this new platform for sharing with all of you information about world language learning and related developments here in Georgia. We sincerely hope that this information is beneficial and informative for you and as always, we are here to serve and to answer any additional questions you may have. You can find a lot of additional information about many of our programs by visiting our [homepage](#) or by emailing the Program Specialist for World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives at pwallace@doe.k12.ga.us.

Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy

The Seal is above all an official recognition of a student's proficiency in both English and another language or multiple languages. Additionally, it is a recognition of the economic and societal value of that language ability and in a broader context the value of the many cultures that make up the fabric of our communities across Georgia. It is not only a global imperative that our students have these linguistic and cultural competencies, it is a domestic imperative as well. More than half the world is bilingual and our students are increasingly entering a workforce that is as diverse as our communities. International investment in Georgia is on the rise and so are the opportunities for students who can demonstrate the critical cultural soft skills that enable our businesses to thrive economically both at home and abroad.



In Georgia, we set the bar high in terms of proficiency for our Seal of Biliteracy recipients. In fact, we set a very high minimum requirement for students by requiring them to reach the level of Intermediate high on the ACTFL proficiency scale. The Seal represents a real proficiency target for all our language programs K-12. At the end of the day, it is a measure of how well students speak, read, listen and write in the language. It represents in many ways as well, a fundamental shift in world language education for our nation toward specifically focusing on the proficiency of language learners.

[The Georgia Seal of Biliteracy](#) was signed into law on May 3, 2016.

Links related to the Seal of Biliteracy!

[Link to Webinar on the Seal of Biliteracy!](#)

[States that offer a Seal of Biliteracy!](#)

[A new marker of success.](#)

[Fayette county students receive Seal of Biliteracy!](#)

[South Forsyth students receive Seal of Biliteracy!](#)

[ACTFL proficiency Guidelines.](#)

Who is eligible?

All public high school students in Georgia are eligible to receive the Seal of Biliteracy.

What are the requirements?

- (1) Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above in those classes; and
- (2) Proficiency in one or more languages other than English, demonstrated by passing a foreign language advanced placement examination with a score of 4 or higher or an international baccalaureate examination with a score of 5 or higher. In schools where these tests are not offered, students can prove their proficiency in the desired language by taking an exam from a 2nd tier of tests.

To view a graphic of the approved tests to determine proficiency in the additional language(s) for Georgia's new Seal of Biliteracy, click [here](#).—scroll to the bottom of the page)

At the end of the 1st reporting cycle, 1133 Seals of Biliteracy were issued to Georgia Students. 878 in Spanish, 43 in German, 198 in French, 7 in Chinese, 1 in Latin, 1 in Czech, 2 in Haitian-Creole and 3 in other European Languages.

The **deadline** for the first reporting cycle for Georgia's Seal of Biliteracy is **May 1st**.

The Seal of Biliteracy has a 2nd reporting cycle to accommodate students who wish to have the Seal awarded retroactively upon receipt of their AP and IB test scores. The **deadline** for the second reporting cycle is **Sept 1st**.

International Skills Diploma Seal

In today's global marketplace, it is important for students to acquire the interdisciplinary skills they need to be globally competent and competitive. The International Skills Diploma Seal is awarded to graduating high school students who complete an international education curriculum and engage in extracurricular activities and experiences that foster the achievement of global competencies. It is a signal to employers and higher education institutions that a student is prepared to participate in the global economy. You can find out even more about the ISDS by visiting our website [here](#).

Who is eligible?

All public high school students in Georgia are eligible to receive the International Skills Diploma Seal provided that the School has completed its application to be accepted into the program.

[Students in Henry county receive International Skills Diploma Seals!](#)

[What a language is worth.](#)

[Language Skills matter for national security.](#)

What are the requirements?

- (1) At least three credits in the same world language and/or ESOL International Focus.
- (2) At least four credits in courses determined to have an international focus, such as international economics, world/non-US history, world geography, etc.
- (3) At least four extracurricular activities and experiences with global themes and/or in global contexts (e.g., exchange programs, international and language clubs, travel abroad)
- (4) Twenty hours of community service involving a global/cross-cultural public service project.
- (5) Capstone presentation on the knowledge gained in the courses and activities listed above

Georgia is 1 of only 3 states offering a Seal of Global Competence to graduating seniors! Last year, 640 Seniors statewide



earned the seal and representatives from all participating schools were invited to the Department of Education in April to the annual International Skills Diploma Seal Awards Ceremony!

Links related to the International Skills Diploma Seal

[Link to a webinar on the ISDS program.](#)

[Link to FAQs on ISDS.](#)

[Translators and Interpreters in Demand](#)

[Technology Association of Georgia—International Businesses](#)

[World Language Skills growing in Demand.](#)

[Students in Cherokee County receive International Skills Diploma Seals!](#)

[CIA looking to hire personnel with Language Skills.](#)

[Largest vessel ever to dock at East Coast Port arrives in Savannah—Georgia is going global!](#)

[German investment in Georgia growing!](#)

[Foreign language emergency hinders US economy and foreign policy!](#)

[Global Trade in Georgia!](#)

Dual Language Immersion

In [Georgia dual language programs](#), the students spend at least half of their school day in the target language and the other half-day in English. Some programs may choose to increase the percentage of the day spent in the target language in the early years. Immersion students are taught Math, Science, Literacy and sometimes Social Studies in the target language. They are taught English Language Arts, Reading, and usually Specials in English. Georgia currently has 40 Dual Language Immersion Programs! You can find a complete up to date list at our [website](#).

Why Dual Language Immersion?

The [evidence supporting bilingual education](#) is clear and mounting.

Benefits include:

- Cognitive gains,
- Economic benefits,
- Increased academic achievement,
- Improving students' ability to learn a second language,
- Increased English literacy skills,
- Increased performance on standardized tests,
- Higher attendance rates, and
- Better understanding of other cultures.

This research has been confirmed by a variety of different sources including studies by: the [Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition](#), the Modern Language Association, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the [Center for Applied Linguistics](#), and the [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#).

Where are Georgia's Dual Language Immersion Programs?

During the 2013-2014 school year, there were 6 dual language immersion programs in the state. Currently, there are 40 such programs. You can find these programs in Clarke, Cobb, Dalton, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, and Rockdale counties, along with Atlanta Public Schools. Forsyth County has also announced its plans to open 3 dual language programs for the 2018-2019 school year.



The State's first [Japanese-English Dual Language Immersion Charter School](#) will open in August 2018. Gwinnett has announced plans to open the state's first Korean-English Dual Language Immersion program in the fall of 2019.

Please note that **most of these programs have waiting lists or lottery systems for entry**, due to their popularity and growth. If you're interested in entering your child in a lottery system for a DLI program, contact your school district.

Links related to Immersion Education.

[Link to webinar on Dual Language Immersion.](#)

[Link to research on the astounding effectiveness of DLI.](#)

[Link to report by the commission of language learning. \(American Academy of Arts and Sciences\)](#)

[Video of DLI at Trip Elementary in Gwinnett.](#)

[French Government launches DLI Fund for French Programs.](#)

[Georgia State receives 2.6 million grant to support bilingual teachers.](#)

[Bilingual programs in Hall county \(in Spanish\)](#)

[Link to Video on DLI in Gwinnett.](#)

[The Bilingual revolution in America.](#)

[Bilingual program in Clark County going strong!](#)

[Fulton County Dual Language Immersion Programs!](#)

International Activity in Georgia

Georgia has been steadily increasing its global connections over the last two decades and this expansion has noticeably accelerated during the past decade. With the recent expansion of the Panama Canal in the summer of 2017, enabling ships three times larger than previously to navigate through this important trade point, the port of Savannah has been quietly breaking records monthly. The announced expansion of the port's unloading facilities ensures that Savannah will have the largest capacity to unload ships of any US port. With nearly 5,000 miles of Rail and the one of the most extensive surface street networks of any state in the union, our infrastructure is uniquely suited to handle a growing amount of commerce with the global markets. Combining this with the world's busiest travel airport and the world's most efficient airport for 14 years in a row, makes Georgia's competitive advantage multi-faceted and ensures that the state will be a critical international hub for the USA for many years to come.

Collectively, from Europe alone, over 3,300 facilities in Georgia employ almost 158,000 Georgia employees. Nearly 1,200 of these facilities come from Germany, Austria or Switzerland. Other countries include Belgium, France, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Ireland, The United Kingdom, Norway, Spain, Portugal, Sweden and the Netherlands. In 2016 nearly 25% of all Georgia exports were headed to Europe and nearly 27% of all imports originated from Europe. Asian investment in Georgia is also strong with total imports in 2016 from Japan, Korea and China accounting for 34% of imports and 28% of exports.

For more information visit the Georgia Department of Economic Development's website on International

WL Educator of the Month

Every day, all across the great state of Georgia, world language educators at all grade levels are making a world of difference in our schools! This program is designed to honor these educators and celebrate the impact their efforts have on the lives of our students!

Do you know a current world language teacher that has made a difference in your life or the lives of others! Do you know a teacher who goes above and beyond to provide students the critical language and cultural competencies needed for the workforce of today and tomorrow? Whether you are a parent, student, colleague or citizen, we invite you to tell us about them! Please fill out our online nomination form [here](#). **Thank you for nominating!**

Follow us on Social Media!

You can now follow the latest developments in World Languages and Global Workforce Initiatives via our [Facebook](#) page, or [Twitter](#) pages. Regardless which platform you prefer, our goal is to provide real time updates on developments relating to world language education in Georgia!

University/College Advisory Board

In an effort to increase synergy between world language programs at the K-12 level and those at the university/college level, this year we are proud to announce the creation of the Georgia Department of Education's World Language University/College Advisory Board. This group will meet regularly throughout the year so that world language programs at all levels can stay informed of developments happening statewide. Among other goals, the board will discuss topics of common interest, promote greater cohesion between the systems, allow for increased transparency and flow of information among participating institutions and provide a forum for resolving issues related to world language education. Currently over 26 of Georgia's Universities and colleges are active in the organization.

World Language #s rising in Ga!

Overall world language course enrollment in Georgia's public schools during the 2016-2017 school year increased by over 13,000 students from the 2015-2016 school year. This represents the 5th straight year of increasing enrollment in world language courses statewide. The largest increases were in elementary school with an increased enrollment of over 10,000 students statewide in grades K-5 learning a world language.

By language course, Spanish continued to remain strong, increasing by nearly 15,000 students from the previous school year. Small gains were also reported in Latin, Japanese, American Sign Language and Portuguese. Small decreases were reported in French, German, Chinese and Arabic. At the end of the first reporting cycle for Georgia's historic Seal of Biliteracy, 549 Seals of Biliteracy were officially reported in Spanish, French, Chinese, German and Latin as well as several additional European languages. The 2nd reporting cycle for the Seal of Biliteracy closes on September 1st. Over 4, 200 Georgia students were reported enrolled in a Dual Language Immersion Programs in Spanish, German, French and Chinese in Georgia last school year. Last year, 640 International Skills Diploma Seals were distributed.

Additional Links of interest!

[Two languages = many advantages](#)

[6 highly successful bilinguals](#)

[Lead with Languages from ACTFL](#) (Great Resources)

[Do you know about CULTR?](#) (Click here to find out about Georgia's LRC!)

[Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta](#)

[Alliance Française Atlanta](#)

[City of Atlanta International Affairs](#)

The overall number of students learning world languages in Georgia is on the rise for the 5th straight year!

