

Date: February 19, 2016

To: District Administrators

From: Mike Thompson, PhD
Deputy State Superintendent

Subject: Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy

The department is pleased to announce the Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy (Wisconsin Seal). The Wisconsin Seal promotes excellence for all by building upon the rich linguistic and cultural assets of Wisconsin students. It communicates a policy-level commitment to advance mastery of two or more languages. Being bilingual affords every student the opportunity to graduate prepared and equipped with the cultural and linguistic capacity. Students earning the Wisconsin Seal will be better able to participate effectively in a multilingual and global 21st century society. We see the Global Education Achievement Award (GEAC) as a complementary pathway to the Wisconsin Seal.

The Wisconsin Seal will articulate:

- Criteria for advanced biliteracy attainment using a data-based, nationally recognized assessment framework (valued by employers, communities, and institutions of higher education).
- Criteria for demonstration of sociocultural competency to address the needs of local and global communities.

Districts are encouraged to utilize programs and resources that are currently available in the district or community in developing a program. The Wisconsin Seal, however, does provide an incentive for districts to develop or maintain their language education programs and develop innovative ways for students to become socioculturally competent.

If you have any questions, please contact Tolu Sanabria, tolu.sanabria@dpi.wi.gov, or, 608-267-9235.

MJT/ts

Attachment