

Seal of Biliteracy

Onboarding Module 1:

Seal of Biliteracy Overview



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
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Seal of Biliteracy (SBL) Onboarding Modules

Topic	Link
SBL Mission, Vision and Overview	Module 1
SBL Student Requirements	Module 2
District Responsibilities and Budget Considerations (Coming soon!)	Module 3
Pathways to Proficiency	Module 4
Assessment of Language Proficiency (English & Languages Other Than English)	Module 5
Demonstration of Sociocultural/Intercultural Competence	Module 6
Recruitment, Promotion, and Communication	Module 7
Data Tracking and Reporting	Module 8
Celebration of Student and Staff Success	Module 9

Seal of Biliteracy Guide

For more information about the topics covered in this onboarding module, as well as links to resources, see the following sections of the [Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy: District Planning, Registration, and Implementation Guide: Introduction](#) and [Overview](#)



Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy
District Planning, Registration,
and Implementation Guide

February 2025

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Module Objectives

- **What is the Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy (SBL)?**
- **What is the history and original purpose of the Seal of Biliteracy?**
- **How does the Seal define biliteracy?**
- **Why is it important for districts to formally recognize biliteracy, and what are the benefits for students, schools, and communities?**



DPI Seal of Biliteracy Overview



Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy (SBL)



History of the Seal of Biliteracy

1998

**ENGLISH
ONLY!**

California's Prop 227

- mandates English immersion programs
- leads to sharp decline in bilingual programs



History of the Seal of Biliteracy

California's Prop 227

- English-only immersion programs
- Sharp decline in bilingual programs

1998

2008 - 2011

California State Seal of Biliteracy (SBL) is created in 2008.

In 2011, California is first to adopt the SBL statewide.

你好

Hola

مرحبا

Здравствуйте

Merhaba



History of the Seal of Biliteracy

California's Prop 227

- English-only immersion programs
- Sharp decline in bilingual programs

1998

- 2013 IL, NY, TX adopt SBL
- 2014 WA, NM, LA, MN, D.C.
- 2015 **Wisconsin** adopts the Seal of Biliteracy along with NC, VA, IN, NV, HI, UT

2008 - 2011

2013-2015

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History of the Seal of Biliteracy

California's Prop 227

- English-only immersion programs
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- 2013 IL, NY, TX adopt SBL
- 2014 WA, NM, LA, MN, D.C.
- 2015 **Wisconsin**, NC, VA, IN, NV, HI, UT

1998

2008 - 2011

2013-2015

2024

California State SBL is created in 2008.

In 2011, California is first to adopt the SBL statewide.

South Dakota becomes the last state to join the SBL initiative.

What does it mean to be biliterate?



What does it mean to be biliterate?

Evidence of Proficiency in English

ACCESS Composite Score (or Exiting English Learner status in grades 6-12 for former ELs)	4+
ACT English Language Arts score	18+
AP English Language and Composition	3+
STAMP4s assessment in English	6+
LTI AAPPL assessment in English	5+

What does it mean to be biliterate?

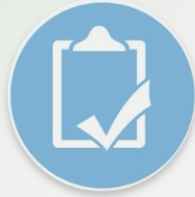
Evidence of Proficiency in Language Other Than English

STAMP4s (Intermediate high in all 4 skills)	6+
AAPPL (Intermediate high in all skills)	1-5+
AP Language and Culture	4+

If a language is not available in one of the tests above, use the test finder tool from the Global Seal of Biliteracy website.

<https://theglobalseal.com/test-finder>

Seal of Biliteracy Competencies



English

Proficiency in English across all four skill domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing)



Language other than English

Proficiency in a partner language (e.g. Spanish, Hmong, Ojibwe, Mandarin) in all four skill domains



Sociocultural Competence

Linguistically and culturally appropriate interactions in English and a language other than English (LOTE)

Why implement the Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy?

The Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy is rooted in the belief that all students deserve access to the benefits of language, intercultural, and global learning

The underlying principle of the SBL is
Recognition and Celebration

- SBL honors the diverse cultures and linguistic assets of multilingual learners in our state
- It recognizes the bilingual skills of the growing number of students in our state who come to school speaking languages other than English



Resources

For more detailed information about the following topics, check out these SBL onboarding modules:

- **Module 5: Assessment of Language Proficiency (English & Languages Other Than English)**
- **Module 6: Demonstration of Sociocultural/Intercultural Competence**

For more background information about the Seal of Biliteracy initiative:

- [National Seal of Biliteracy website](#)
- [Global Seal of Biliteracy website](#)



Questions?

We are here to help!
Please send SBL-related
questions to:
SBL@dpi.wi.gov

