



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 27, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: High School Principals, School Counselors, Bilingual/ESL Supervisors, World Language Supervisors
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D.
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Diana M. Pasculli
Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics & Performance

Deadline: December 1, 2020

2020-2021 State Seal of Biliteracy Program District Information

The 2020-2021 school year is the fifth year that the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will offer the option for graduating high school students to attain the State Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating proficiency in English and one or more world languages. For school districts to denote participation in the State Seal of Biliteracy program, they should indicate the district biliteracy seal coordinator in the County/District/School (CDS) information system, located on the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) [Homeroom](#) webpage. District participation will only be collected via the CDS system and no longer via a survey.

Students who attain this distinction will receive an NJDOE-issued certificate and transcript notation indicating the awarding of the Seal of Biliteracy, a program that was enacted by [Legislation](#) in 2016. The NJDOE has developed criteria to designate students as biliterate. For detailed information on the criteria, please visit the NJDOE [Seal of Biliteracy](#) webpage. Regarding the assessments that can be used to demonstrate proficiency in English and one or more world languages, the NJDOE is actively monitoring the situation around COVID-19 and will provide guidance and information at a future date.

For the 2020-2021 school year, data will be collected in the NJSMART database that includes student-level information in the following elements: biliterate (yes or no); world language assessed; and world language assessment.

In the interim, please direct questions to the Title III & Bilingual/ESL Unit, Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, at ell@doe.nj.gov or to the World Languages Coordinator, Division of Academics and Performance, at worldlang@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group
NJTESOL-NJBE