



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 18, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: High School Principals, Principals of Adult High Schools, School Counselors, World Language Supervisors, Bilingual/ESL Supervisors
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

2023-2024 State Seal of Biliteracy Program Participation and Updates

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) announces support for the implementation of the New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy. Graduating high school and adult high school students who have demonstrated proficiency in English and one or more additional languages are eligible to attain the New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy. For detailed information on the criteria, please visit the [NJDOE State Seal of Biliteracy webpage](#).

Key Steps/Actions

To indicate participation in the State Seal of Biliteracy program, local educational agencies (LEAs) should indicate or update the Biliteracy Coordinator in the County/District/School (CDS) information system, located on the [NJDOE Homeroom](#) webpage. This information will be used for all communication about the Seal of Biliteracy.

NJDOE's webinars for the Seal of Biliteracy are open for registration, please see the [NJDOE's Calendar of Events website](#) to register. Webinars will be held on October 18, 23, 30 and November 29, 2023. Additional supports are offered throughout the year.

Update on English Language Arts Proficiency Requirement

Students must demonstrate English language proficiency by attaining the English language arts (ELA) [graduation requirements](#). This includes demonstrating proficiency on the English language arts component of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA), meeting the designated cut score on a substitute competency test, or submitting a student portfolio. Multilingual Learners (MLs) must demonstrate English proficiency by attaining the ELA [graduation requirements](#) or achieving a score of at least 4 on all sections (e.g., listening, speaking, reading, and writing) on Tier B or Tier C of the ACCESS for ELLs (English Language Learners) assessment during their junior year of high school.

Update on Approved Assessments

In addition to the approved assessments listed on the [NJDOE State Seal of Biliteracy webpage](#) under "Acceptable Evidence of Proficiency," starting in the 2023-2024 school year, LEAs can accept student score reports for the following international assessments taken during a student's junior or senior year:

- Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE) is available in Spanish. The minimum score required is B1.
- Servicio Internacional de Evaluación de la Lengua Española (SIELE) is available in Spanish. The minimum score required is B1.
- Diplôme Approfondi en Langue Française (DALF) is available in French. The minimum score required is B1.
- Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française (DELFF) is available in French. The minimum score required is B1.
- Ellinomatheia (Examination for the Certificate of Attainment in Greek) is available in Greek. The minimum score required is B1.

- Centro de Avaliação do Português Língua Estrangeira (CAPLE) is available in Portuguese. The minimum score required is B1.
- Goethe Zertifikat is available in German. The minimum score required is B1.

LEAs can also administer and/or accept student score reports for the following assessment:

- National Examinations in World Languages (NEWL), which must be administered during a student's junior year. The assessment is available in Arabic, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian. The minimum score required is a 4.
- With the assessments mentioned above LEAs are responsible for:
 - Verifying the NEWL assessment was completed during the student's junior year.
 - Verifying the international assessments mentioned above are taken during a student's junior or senior year.
 - Providing individual score reports to the NJDOE securely *if* assessments are not administered by LEAs. Biliteracy Coordinators should save the file as follows "State Student ID – Assessment – Language" (e.g., 0000000000 – DALF – French) and reach out to worldlang@doe.nj.gov to request a secure way to share the file.

Contact Information

For more information or questions please contact the World Languages Coordinator, Division of Teaching and Learning Services at worldlang@doe.nj.gov or (609) 376-3628.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group