



Iowa Seal of Biliteracy Criteria

The Iowa Seal of Biliteracy is an award by a district to recognize students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages, one of which is English, by high school graduation. Being able to use more than one language is a critical skill for the 21st Century. The Iowa Seal of Biliteracy:

- values language as an asset.
- recognizes the value of language diversity and cultural identity.
- prepares students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in the labor market and the global society.
- provides employers, universities and grant/scholarship committees with a method to recognize applicants for their dedication to attainment of biliteracy.

What is Language Proficiency?

The Iowa Seal of Biliteracy focuses not on “seat time” or completion of language courses; it relies on demonstrating proficiency in a given language. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) outlines the meaning of language proficiency, and they use the term novice, intermediate, advanced, superior and distinguished to indicate levels of proficiency. For the purpose of attaining the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy, a score that mirrors the ACTFL Intermediate Level is considered proficient.

A seal of biliteracy will be placed on the transcripts of students who meet the criteria. In addition, a letter will be mailed to parents and students recognizing the accomplishment

English Proficiency Assessment Options:

To be eligible to be awarded the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy, each student must first demonstrate proficiency in English. The requirement must be met during the course of each student’s high school years. The assessment options to demonstrate proficiency in English include:

Assessment	Minimum Score	More Information
ACT	English 18	ACT
AP Language or AP Literature Exam	3	AP Language or AP Literature Exams
English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21 st Century (ELPA21) in grades 9-12	4 or 5 in all domains (reading, writing, speaking and listening) which equates to an overall proficiency of 3	ELPA21 Summary Test
SAT	English 470	SAT
Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) in grades 9-12	Proficient in English/Language Arts	ISASP
Most recent Iowa Assessments results (2018-19 only)	Proficient in Reading Competition	Iowa Assessments

World Language Proficiency Assessment Options:

To be eligible to be awarded the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy, each student must demonstrate proficiency in a World Language. The assessment options to demonstrate proficiency in a World Language include:

Assessment	Languages	Minimum Score	More Information
Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Culture Exam	French, German, Spanish	3	AP Language and Culture Exams
ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Language (AAPPL) Measure	Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai	Intermediate Two (I-2) The level is required on all four components of the assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interpretive Language ● Interpretive Reading ● Interpersonal Listening and Speaking ● Presentational Writing 	AAPPL Exam
American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI)	American Sign Language	Intermediate	SLPI
Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)	See list at this link	Intermediate-Mid Must be taken in conjunction with the WPT	OPI Exam
Oral Proficiency Interview - computer (OPIc)	Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Pashto, Persian Farsi, European Portuguese, Brazilian Portuguese, Russian, Spanish	Intermediate-Mid Must be taken in conjunction with the WPT	OPIc Exam
Writing Proficiency Test (WPT)	Albanian (Booklet form only), Arabic, Cantonese Chinese, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Greek (modern), Haitian Creole (Booklet form only), Hebrew (Booklet form only), Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian Farsi, Polish, European Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese	Intermediate-Mid Must be taken in conjunction with OPI/OPIc	WPT Exam
World Language in Which No Assessment Exits	Individually approved by local school district. Products to demonstrate proficiency may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● formal presentation in targeted language. ● student-produced composition, articles, papers and other formal documents in the targeted world language. ● certificates, transcripts, diplomas, results from tests or assessments other than those identified above and additional achievements that demonstrate sufficient proficiency in the targeted world language. 		

Davenport Community School District Guidelines:

The following guidelines will be applied for attainment of the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy:

- Any student in the district is encouraged to participate in the attainment of the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy. The Iowa Seal of Biliteracy focuses not on “seat time” or completion of language courses; it relies on demonstrating proficiency in a given language.
- Testing (where applicable) will be offered through the district two times per year: November and March.
- The district will pay for the first administration of the language assessment. Students who wish to retest a second time on the language assessment or use the ACT and/or SAT as part of their English proficiency requirement are responsible for the cost.

How do I know if I am Prepared for the Exams?

Non-ELL Students	ELL Students
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Level 4 Course work in a World Language● Intermediate Spanish I or II● Teacher Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Review the checklist● Complete prompt● Teacher Recommendation

How do I sign up to Participate?

- Contact your World Language Teacher, ELL Teacher or Counselor