

# Stonington Public Schools & Connecticut's Seal of Biliteracy Pilot



## What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given in recognition of students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. Appearing on a certificate, the Seal of Biliteracy is a statement of accomplishment for gaining competency in two or more languages and is viewed as an asset when applying for a job or for college admission. The Seal serves to certify attainment of biliteracy for students, employers and institutions of higher education. It is a statement of accomplishment that helps to signal evidence of a student's readiness for career and college, and for engagement as a global citizen.

**24 States currently have legislation, 5 are under construction and 7 states, including CT, are currently in the early stages. The Commissioner of Education for CT launched a pilot.**

## What does the Seal of Biliteracy Measure?

**Proficiency in a language:** Intermediate Mid or higher

- Functional language ability
- The ability to USE language for real world purposes
- Not what a learner knows about language
- What users of a language can and cannot do
- Guidelines describe what a language user can do (say, write, understand) consistently at one level and cannot do at the next higher lever

## Which Assessments will be used to Measure Proficiency?

**AAPPL:** [www.AAPPL.org](http://www.AAPPL.org)

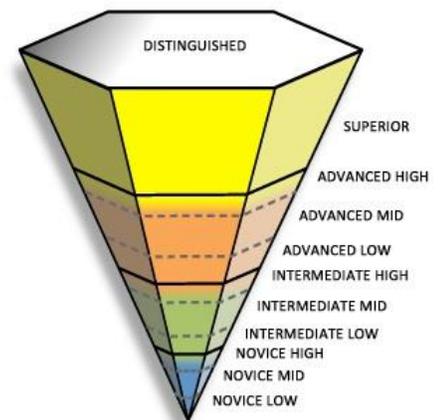
- Students need to score I-3 or higher on each of the four components to be awarded the Seal of Biliteracy
- AAPPL is easy to administer and on demand most affordable option for students
- **COST:** All 4 tests cost \$20 in total (\$5 per section if student needs to retake, \$10 interpersonal)

**OPIc (Speaking & Listening) & WPT (Reading & Writing):** [www.LanguageTesting.com](http://www.LanguageTesting.com)

- Students receive up to 12 credits- 2000 colleges and universities with OPIc
- Most beneficial for students seeking college credits and is based on global proficiency tasks
- **COST:** Both tests needed (\$105) WPT (\$105) in total \$210

## What are the Benefits to our Students?

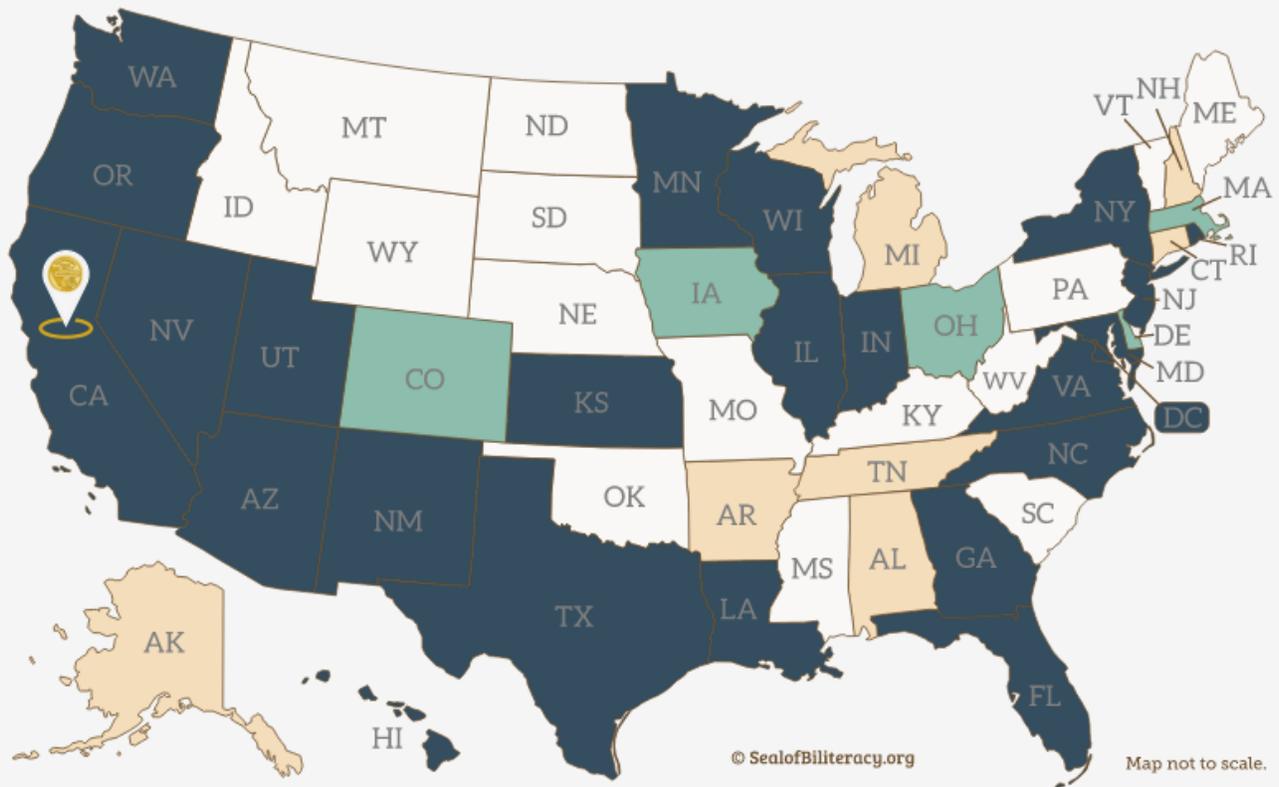
- Highlight second language ability as a key 21st Century Skill in college, career, and life.
- Show universities and potential employers that a student has the ability to effectively communicate with people from 2 or more languages and cultures, both orally and in writing.
- Encourage all students to pursue proficiency in at least one language other than their native language.
- Reward students for their level of proficiency or mastery of a language, rather than focusing on how many years they have studied it.



- Strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community.

## STATE LAWS REGARDING THE SEAL OF BILITERACY

● Approved State Seal   ● Under Consideration   ● Early Stages   ● No Seal of Biliteracy, Yet!



For more information, visit the website.

[www.SealofBiliteracy.org](http://www.SealofBiliteracy.org)

### **How will the Seal of Biliteracy be Administered & Tracked in Stonington?**

- Seniors will be offered the opportunity to take the AAPPL test on a variety of dates in early October. The Seal Coordinator will collect money and order individual tests by language.
- All students who earn I-3 or higher in all four parts of the test will receive the AAPPL certification.
- All students who need to retake a section of the test will pay the additional \$5 (\$10 if interpersonal test needs to be repeated) and the test will be administered by the Seal Coordinator.
- Seal Coordinator will work with guidance to determine if each student has met all graduation requirements for English.
- All students who have met both the ELA and the WL requirements will have a course titled “Seal of Biliteracy Spanish” or “Seal of Biliteracy French” added to their official transcripts to be shared with colleges in time for applications.
- All students will also have the opportunity to take the OPIc and WPT, the official test used for the workforce or military in the spring. This is the test is used for teacher licensure and is also used in order to receive up to 12 college credits.
- The Alta Test will be used for students who speak other languages at home as well since it is offered in over 100 languages beginning in January.