

VISION:

To prepare students to become 21st century global citizens in a multilingual, multicultural world.

WHAT IS BILITERACY?

The ability to speak, read and write in two languages at a high level of proficiency.

In addition to the Seal of Biliteracy, there are two awards that recognize and encourage younger students to work towards meeting the criteria of the State Seal of Biliteracy. These are the Pathway to Biliteracy awards which are presented to qualifying middle and elementary school students and the Readiness awards that are presented to qualifying third grade students.

AB815 legislation was signed by Governor Brown on Oct. 9, 2011 thereby granting a State Seal of Biliteracy to students who meet the requirements.

For more information, contact:

Ripon Unified School District

Suzette Mendonca
Program Manager
Mendonca@sjcoe.net
209-599-2131

Or

Janet Rodriguez
Paraprofessional Liaison
Ripon High School
jarodriguez@sjcoe.net
209-599-7145

Ripon Unified School District
304 N. Acacia Avenue
Ripon, CA 95366



State Seal of
Biliteracy Award
Program





The State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by the California Department of Education in recognition of students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and another language by high school graduation. The State Seal of Biliteracy is viewed as an asset when applying for college admission.

GOALS:

In awarding the State Seal of Biliteracy to graduating seniors who have met all of the criteria, the San Joaquin County Office of Education honors this achievement with an award ceremony for the students, their families, schools and community.

AB815 State Seal of Biliteracy (criteria) 51461

(a) The State Seal of Biliteracy certifies attainment of a high level of proficiency by a graduating high school pupil in one or more languages, in addition to English, and certifies that the graduate meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Completion of all English Language Arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 2.0 or above in all those classes.

(2) Passing a locally determined assessment at the "proficient" level in English-language arts (ELA) set for native English speakers administered at grade eleven or using an existing passing California Standards Test in ELA at the "proficient" level given in grade ten.

(3) Proficiency in one or more languages other than English, demonstrated through one of the following methods:

(A) Passing a foreign language *Advanced Placement examination* with a score of 3 or higher or an *International Baccalaureate examination* with a score of 4 or higher.

(B) Successful completion of a four-year high school course of study in a foreign language, and attaining an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above in that course of study.

(C) If no *Advanced Placement examination* or *off-the-shelf language test* exists and the school district can certify to the Superintendent that the test meets the rigor of a four-year high school course of study in that foreign language, passing a school district language examination that, at a minimum, assesses speaking, reading, and writing in a language other than English at proficient level or higher. If a school district offers a language examination in a language in which an *Advanced Placement examination* or *off-the-shelf language test* exists, the school district language examination shall be approved by the Superintendent for the purpose of determining proficiency in a language other than English.

(D) Passing the SAT II foreign language examination with a score of 600 or higher.

(b) If the primary language of a pupil in any grades 9-12, inclusive, is other than English, he or she shall do both of the following in order to qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy:

(1) **Attain the early advanced proficiency level on the English language development test. For purposes of this paragraph, a participating school district may administer the English language development test an additional time as necessary.**

(2) **Meet the requirement for subdivision (a) above.**

(c) For language in which an *Advanced Placement test* is not available, the Superintendent may provide a listing of equivalent summative tests that school districts may use in place of an *Advanced Placement test* for purposes of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a). A school district may provide the Superintendent with a list of equivalent summative tests that the district uses in place of an *Advanced Placement test* for purposes of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a). The Superintendent may use lists received from school districts in developing his or her list of equivalent summative tests.

(d) For purposes of this article, "foreign language" means a language other than English, and includes American Sign Language.