

Seal Of Biliteracy

At Norwalk Community School District

In an effort to continue growing learners and leaders, Norwalk Community School District's school board recently approved the Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy is an award that is given by a district to recognize graduating students who have achieved proficiency in two or more languages. Seniors graduating in the spring of 2020 will be the first group of students able to earn this prestigious honor.

Norwalk's mission is in line with many of the goals for this newly established award. Similarly to how Norwalk wants their graduates to be connected and socially-aware, one goal of the Seal of Biliteracy is to strengthen intergroup relationships that affirm the value of diversity as well as honor the various cultures and languages within a community. The Seal of Biliteracy also provides reliable information for people like employers, secondary school officials, etc. in order to identify people with language skills. The Seal also supports Norwalk's goals of producing Self-Aware and Self-Directed students. The Seal recognizes that schools play an important role in helping students learn a language; however, this award requires students to attain a certain level and skills within a language that isn't necessarily tied to seat time. As such, earning this award will encourage students to take their study of an additional language into their own hands.

If you are interested in receiving the Seal of Biliteracy from Norwalk High School, here are some important things to know:

- English proficiency is one of the required languages.
- You may demonstrate proficiency in any other language, including American Sign Language (ASL).
- Proficiency in both languages must be demonstrated while in grades 9-12.
- Proficient means having Intermediate-Mid level skills. Generally, this means these people are able to, "create with language, initiate, maintain, and bring to a close simple conversations by asking and responding to simple questions" ([Oral Proficiency in the Workplace](#)).
- Students must show proficiency in all four skills - listening, reading, writing, and speaking.
- Students wishing to add French or Spanish will be asked to take a proficiency exam in the spring. The cost of the testing for Spanish and French is \$20.
- Additional languages may be asked to take a proficiency test or be asked to create a portfolio. Additional language testing prices may vary.

The timeline is currently being developed but a tentative schedule is below:

1. **Friday, January 31st - Indicate interest and sign up by using [this form](#)**

2. {Tentative} Wednesday, February 12th - Payment due
3. {Tentative} Wednesday, February 26th - Testing day for Spanish and French

If you'd like more specific information about the Seal of Biliteracy, please contact Elizabeth Dentlinger at edentlinger@norwalk.k12.ia.us .

Requirements for Attaining the Seal of Biliteracy

English Proficiency	
Assessment:	Minimum score:
ACT	English 18
AP Language or AP Literature Exam	3
English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA 21) in grades 9-12	Proficient, Level 3
Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) in grades 9-12	Proficient in English/Language Arts

World Language Proficiency		
Assessment:	Languages available:	Minimum score:
Standard Based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP)	Arabic, Chinese, (Simplified and Traditional), French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish	Intermediate -Mid (5) This level is required on all components
American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI)	American Sign Language (ASL)	3
Portfolio	World Languages in Which No Assessment Exists	Portfolios are individually approved by the district, but should assess students in reading, writing,

		<p>speaking, and listening.</p> <p>Products to demonstrate proficiency may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Formal presentations in the targeted world language;● Student-produced compositions, articles, papers and other formal documents in the targeted world language; and/or● Certificates, transcripts, diplomas, results from tests or assessments other than those identified above and additional achievements that demonstrate sufficient proficiency in the language.
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