

## **SEAL OF BILITERACY**

### **What is the Seal of Biliteracy?**

The Ohio Seal of Biliteracy is an award conferred to graduating seniors who can demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English and at least one other language.

Having a Seal of Biliteracy can benefit students who are applying to college by bolstering their academic credentials. For students entering the workforce or the military after graduation, having a Seal of Biliteracy helps employers and military recruiters identify that these students can use their language proficiency in a variety of professional contexts.

Olmsted Falls High School gives this award by following state-established guidelines.

To earn a Seal of Biliteracy, a student must first demonstrate proficiency in English in one of 4 ways:

1. Earn a proficient level or higher on Ohio's required state tests for high school English language arts I and II; or
2. Earn a remediation-free score on the English and reading sections of the ACT or SAT; or
3. Earn a proficient level or higher on an Ohio Department of Education-approved alternative assessment (TerraNova or Iowa Test)
4. Earn a score of proficient or higher on the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment (OELPA).

A student must also demonstrate proficiency in another language by meeting 1 of 6 of the ODE-established criteria below. Olmsted Falls will be administering an ACTFL approved test to students who may qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy.

1. Pass an Advanced Placement (AP) foreign language examination with a score of 4 or higher; or
2. Pass an International Baccalaureate (IB) foreign language examination with a score of 5 or higher on the Higher Level exam or a score of 6 or higher on the Standard Level exam; or
3. Attain a score of Intermediate High or higher in comprehension, speaking, reading and writing the foreign language based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Guidelines found at [actfl.org/](http://actfl.org/), using [assessments approved by the Ohio Department of Education](#); or
4. Qualify for proficiency-based credits through Ohio's credit flexibility program and attained a score of Intermediate High or higher in comprehension, speaking, reading and writing based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Guidelines using assessments approved by the Ohio Department of Education; or
5. Attain a score equivalent to Intermediate High or higher on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Guidelines in interpersonal signing, presentational signing and demonstrating understanding of American Sign Language on an American Sign Language assessment approved by the Ohio Department of Education; or

6. Attain a score equivalent to Intermediate High or higher on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Guidelines in interpretive reading and presentational writing on a classical language assessment approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

To be eligible for a Seal of Biliteracy assessment, a student must be within 15 months of graduation.

Once students have officially qualified to receive the award, the following notation is added to his or her transcript at the time of graduation: "<Student Name> is awarded the Ohio Seal of Biliteracy for demonstrating high levels of proficiency in English and <world language>."

Testing dates will be announced in spring, 2020. The cost of the test will be \$20.

[For more information on Ohio's Seal of Biliteracy, please visit this link.](#)

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