



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 6, 2015

TO: The Honorable Patricia Halagao, Chairperson
Board of Education, Student Achievement Committee

FROM: Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent

SUBJECT: Update on Seal of Biliteracy Implementation Plan

The Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) adopted Board Policy 105.15, Seal of Biliteracy, at its General Board Meeting held on June 16, 2015. The Seal of Biliteracy shall be available to students graduating in 2017 and thereafter.

The purposes of the Seal of Biliteracy are to recognize the importance of: (1) enabling students to be college, career, and community ready in today's global society; (2) establishing an educational culture that recognizes and values the wealth of linguistic and cultural diversity students bring to the classroom; (3) supporting opportunities for study of and increasing proficiency in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, an official language of the State of Hawai'i; and (4) encouraging partnerships with institutions of higher education and community organizations to increase access to language instruction in a variety of languages.

The Board has established a Seal of Biliteracy to be awarded upon graduation to students who demonstrate a high proficiency in either of the State's two official languages and at least one additional language, including American Sign Language; provided that a student who demonstrates a high proficiency in both of the State's two official languages shall be awarded a Seal of Biliteracy. Thus, a student can qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy if they are:

- Fluent in English and Hawaiian (the State's two official languages)
- Fluent in English and an additional language other than Hawaiian
- Fluent in Hawaiian and an additional language other than English

The attached presentation provides an update on the Seal of Biliteracy Implementation Plan.

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Attachment

c: Board of Education Members
Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support

Update on Seal of Biliteracy Implementation Plan

**Presentation to the BOE Student Achievement Committee
by Stephen Schatz, Deputy Superintendent
October 6, 2015**

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & STUDENT SUPPORT
HawaiiPublicSchools.org

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Seal of Biliteracy - Purpose

The purposes of the Seal of Biliteracy are to recognize the importance of:

- 1) enabling students to be college, career, and community ready in today's global society;**
- 2) establishing an educational culture that recognizes and values the wealth of linguistic and cultural diversity students bring to the classroom;**
- 3) supporting opportunities for study of and increasing proficiency in Olelo Hawaii, an official language of the State of Hawaii; and**
- 4) encouraging partnerships with institutions of higher education and community organizations to increase access to language instruction in a variety of languages.**

Seal of Biliteracy Information

The Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) adopted Board Policy 105.15, Seal of Biliteracy, at its General Board Meeting held on June 16, 2015.

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Thus, a student can qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy if they are:

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- Fluent in English and an additional language other than Hawaiian
- Fluent in Hawaiian and an additional language other than English

Seal of Biliteracy Task Force

A list of nominees is in the process of being finalized. The goal is to ensure a broad and inclusive representation of the many constituencies with an interest in the successful implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy.

Key among these constituencies are secondary and post-secondary educators, school administrators, counselors, employers of the business and non-profit sectors, and community members from the diverse language groups reflected in Hawaii's public school population.

Additional work by sub-committees of specialists may be required (e.g., specialists who can address technical concerns, student transcripts, the graphic design of the Seal itself, validation of proficiency assessments, etc.).

Official invitations to nominees to serve on the Seal of Biliteracy Task Force will be sent out shortly.

Timeline

- August/September 2015
 - Propose list of nominees for the Seal of Biliteracy Task Force
 - Designate DOE Internal Support for the Seal of Biliteracy
- October/November/December 2015
 - Establish Seal of Biliteracy Task Force
 - Schedule Task Force meetings
 - Develop and finalize application forms, guidelines and procedures
 - Coordinate communications plan (internal/external)
 - Identify language assessments
- January/February 2016
 - Create survey of high school juniors and seniors regarding language offerings
 - Execute communications plan
 - Set-up trainings for Spring/Summer for school registrars and counselors