

## POLICY 105-15

### SEAL OF BILITERACY

The Board of Education hereby establishes 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.

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 Hawaii; and (4) encouraging partnerships with institutions of higher education and community organizations to increase access to language instruction in a variety of languages.

The Department of Education shall implement the Seal of Biliteracy, including development of criteria that provide for high levels of proficiency for those receiving the Seal.

**Rationale:** The Board of Education recognizes that there is personal, cultural, social, academic, and vocational/occupational value in encouraging students to maintain, or develop, proficiency in English and an additional language.

[Approved: 06/16/2015 (as Board Policy 105.15); amended: 06/21/2016 (renumbered as Board Policy 105-15)]