

# Illinois Seal of Biliteracy for Universal Students with four years of Arabic

What is the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy Program?

Universal School is proud to offer the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy, a recognition given to graduating high school students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in English and another language in reading, writing, listening and speaking, in Universal School with the second language being the Arabic language.

How is Proficiency determined? Proficiency is determined through scores on both the ACT or SAT and for Arabic by meeting criteria established by ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (**AAPPL**) for Arabic. It is recommended that students earning the seal take four years of the same language during high school.

Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are the benefits of the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy?**

Students who earn the Seal of Biliteracy receive official seals on their diplomas and transcripts, receive a certificate of bilinguality from the State. Because we think knowing multiple languages is something to be celebrated, students will also earn a graduation pin to mark their accomplishment.

By law, Illinois public universities will accept the State Seal of Biliteracy as equivalent to 2 years of foreign language coursework taken during high school if a student's high school transcript indicates that he or she received the State Seal of Biliteracy. Many universities waive any foreign language requirements and/or grant course credit for students who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy.

## **How do you earn it?**

Students earn the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy by doing 2 things:

1. Demonstrating proficiency in English on the SAT
2. Demonstrating proficiency in a second language on the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (**AAPPL**)

## **How do I demonstrate my ENGLISH proficiency?**

Earn a 540 ELA SAT score

Or

Earn a 21 English score on the ACT

## **How do I demonstrate proficiency in my new language?**

Earn a score of I-5 (intermediate high) on the AAPPL test

## **What's the AAPPL?**

The AAPPL is a four part test that assesses Interpersonal Listening/Speaking, Presentational Writing, Interpretive Reading, and Interpretive Listening, all the skills your teachers have been practicing in class. It takes about two hours and you will be doing it with your language class. Universal School has purchased tests for all Arabic language students in level 3 with Mr. Alabd's class (Mr. Alabd has a Master Degree with specialization in how to teach Arabic as a second language). Our hope is that we can find out how successful our foreign language programs are and to help you earn the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy.

## **How do I demonstrate proficiency in my new language?**

Earn a score of 1-5 (intermediate high) on the AAPPL test

**What's the AAPPL?**

The AAPPL is a four part test that assesses Interpersonal Listening/Speaking, Presentational Writing, Interpretive Reading, and Interpretive Listening, all the skills your teachers have been practicing in class. It takes about two hours and you will be doing it with your language class. Universal School will purchase tests yearly for all Arabic language students in level 3 with Mr. Alabd's class.