

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 7.3

Meeting Date: June 18, 2020

Subject: Recognition for Student Recipients of the California State Seal of  
Biliteracy



## Seal of Biliteracy Recognition

June 18, 2020



The California State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to graduating high school students who have studied and attained proficiency in English and one or more other languages. All students must achieve at high levels in English/Language Arts classes and on the grade 11 statewide ELA achievement test, CAASPP. Additionally, students must show competency in another world language through high school coursework, testing through the AP or IB programs, or by passing a state-approved test that includes reading, writing, listening and speaking in the target language.

The SCUSD Seal of Biliteracy program is run in accordance with the CA Ed.G.E. Initiative (Prop 58) and the CA EL Roadmap.

Costs for the Seal of Biliteracy are paid by Title III.

Our goal is to increase the number of students who receive the Seal and the number of world languages for which the Seal is awarded by 15%. We are proud that this year we maintained the number of students in a pandemic year. The number of world languages for which the Seal was awarded decreased by one.

The Sacramento City Unified School District has continuously grown its Seal of Biliteracy program. In 2020, 312 students will receive the award. Of these, 265 students prequalified for the Seal by completing world language coursework or by passing AP or SAT II exams.

The other group of Seal recipients passed a state-approved Seal of Biliteracy test that includes reading, writing, speaking and listening. This test is administered annually to more than 100 students at Serna on a given day in May. However, COVID-19 changed that.

When the mid-March closure came, schools were still identifying students who felt they had sufficient language skills to take the rigorous exam. Just one school had completed their search of students.

Once SCUSD received word from the Sacramento County Office of Education that districts were allowed to test languages at a distance, the Multilingual Literacy and Curriculum and Instruction Offices jumped into gear. Soon, ten training specialists and coordinators began contacting 30 of their "own" students from the master list. The plan was to shepherd these students—supporting them logistically, technically and emotionally—through all the steps of the Seal exam process:

## Seal of Biliteracy Recognition



June 18, 2020

- x Helping students to self-assess their language skills in order to determine if they should sign up for the exam
- x Signing up for the first Seal exam on Zoom, an oral 1:1 interview with a language examiner and notifying students of results
- x Signing up for the second Seal exam on Zoom, a written exam that is conducted on camera in front of a proctor and notifying student of results

After three weeks and more than 2000 emails, 300 phone calls, and 24 Zoom sessions, SCUUSD signed 67 seniors in 10 languages. Forty

Seal of Biliteracy Recognition

June 18, 2020



| World Language | # 2020 Seal Recipients |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Armenian       | 1                      |
| Chinese        | 6                      |
| French         | 44                     |
| German         | 21                     |
| Hmong          | 15                     |
| Japanese       | 22                     |
| Latin          | 5                      |
| Russian        | 4                      |
| Spanish        | 191                    |
| Tagalog        | 5                      |

Moving the Seal of Biliteracy identification and testing process online required the development of a new process and infrastructure, which we have already improved upon and documented. In the case that we are required to conduct the process online again, we are prepared.