

A Performance Acknowledgment in Bilingualism and Biliteracy

Legislation

The 83rd Regular Session of the Texas Legislature proved significant to public education as more than 100 bills were passed. Among them was HB5 that included a measure authored by State Representative Roberto Alonzo of Dallas, on the “State Seal of Biliteracy” which recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

Performance Acknowledgements

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's diploma and transcript by satisfying the requirements for that acknowledgment adopted by the State Board of Education by rule.

An acknowledgment under this subsection may be earned:

(1) for outstanding performance:

- (A) in a dual credit course;
- (B) in bilingualism and biliteracy;
- (C) on a college advanced placement test or international baccalaureate examination; or
- (D) on the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the ACT; or

(2) for earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license.

Methods to Earn Performance Acknowledgement in Bilingualism and Biliteracy

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment in ***bilingualism and biliteracy*** by demonstrating proficiency in accordance with local school district grading policy in two or more languages by:

(1) completing all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA) of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; and

(2) satisfying one of the following:

- completion of a minimum of three credits in the same language in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or
- demonstrated proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Level IV or higher in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or
- completion of at least three credits in foundation subject area courses in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of 80 on a scale of 100; or

- demonstrated proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods:

- a score of 3 or higher on a College Board AP exam for a language other than English; or
- a score of 4 or higher on an IB exam for a higher-level languages other than English course; or
- performance on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English of at least Intermediate High or its equivalent Performance Acknowledgements - SBOE Rule February 2014

In addition to meeting the requirements to earn a performance acknowledgment in bilingualism and biliteracy, an ***English language learner*** must also have:

(A) participated in and met the exit criteria for a bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program; and

(B) scored at the Advanced High level on the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS).

Other states that have Bilingual Seal include California, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, and Washington. For additional information or clarity, please note the websites as follows:

<http://sealofbiliteracy.org/texas>

<http://www.tasanet.org/cms/lib07/TX01923126/Centricity/Domain/175/external/tea-ppt.pdf>