



# State Seal of Biliteracy:

# The Journey in Washington State

Presented by

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# My Inspiration: Galina

Galina was my daughter's community Russian teacher from 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

She asked the Supt. of Public Instruction:  
**Why can't my students be recognized for their Russian language skills?**



# The Journey...

- What is the Seal of Biliteracy and where did it come from?
- Why does it make sense in Washington?
- Passing the WA State Seal of Biliteracy legislation in 2014 and concerns about Equity
- Impact of Competency-Based credits and the Seal, especially for ELLs who have never had their languages recognized before

# What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award made by the state to **recognize a student who has attained proficiency in both English and one or more other world languages by high school graduation.**

The Seal of Biliteracy takes the form of a seal on the diploma and a notation that appears on the transcript of the graduating senior. It is a statement of accomplishment that helps to signal evidence of student's readiness for career and college, and to engage as a global citizen.





# Why does the Seal of Biliteracy make sense for Washington State?

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IMAGES COLLECTED BY PARIS GRANVILLE, FORMER  
WORLD LANGUAGES PROGRAM SUPERVISOR 2014-2015



\$64,000,000,000  
Exports

2011



85%  
of  
BOEING PLANES



\$463,000,000





A woman with dark hair, wearing a purple dress and a necklace, stands in a vineyard. The vineyard has rows of grapevines supported by a trellis system. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky. The word "Agriculture" is written in large, green, sans-serif font across the upper right portion of the image.

# Agriculture

\$13,000,000,000

# Who?



# Language Learners





# Bilingual Students

# Passing the WA State Seal of Biliteracy legislation

## Role of OneAmerica

### Organizing Power:

Community base groups across Washington State developing development



**Policy Advocacy:** Local, state, and federal policy change to improve opportunities for immigrants

<http://weareoneamerica.org>

# SENATE BILL 6424

“[T]he legislature's intent is to promote and recognize linguistic proficiency and cultural literacy in one or more world languages in addition to English through the establishment of a **Washington state seal of biliteracy.**”

- Passed by the Senate March 10, 2014:  
YEAS 49 NAYS 0
- Passed by the House March 6, 2014:  
YEAS 69 NAYS 27
- Signed by the Governor March 27, 2014



State Seal of Biliteracy SB Bill 6424  
Signing on March 27, 2014

Photo courtesy of Washington State Legislative Support Service

# SB 6424: Provisions

“Participating school districts shall place a notation on a student's high school diploma and high school transcript indicating that the student has earned the seal.”



# SB 6424: Criteria

“The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall **adopt rules establishing criteria for award** of the Washington state seal of biliteracy. The criteria must require a student to **demonstrate proficiency in English** by meeting state high school graduation requirements in English, including through state assessments and credits, and **proficiency in one or more world languages other than English.**”

# SB 6424: Criteria

“The criteria must permit a student to demonstrate proficiency in another world language through **multiple methods** including nationally or internationally recognized language proficiency tests and **competency-based world language credits** awarded under the model policy adopted by the Washington state school directors' association.”

# SB 6424: Concerns about Equity

“For the purposes of this section, a world language other than English must include American sign language and Native American languages.”

# SB 6424: Languages of Bilingual Ed Students

“By December 1, 2017, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall submit a **report to the education committees of the legislature** that compares the number of students awarded the Washington state seal of biliteracy in the previous two school years and the languages spoken by those students, to the number of students enrolled or previously enrolled in the transitional bilingual instruction program and the languages spoken by those students.”

# SB 6424: Methods for Demonstrating Proficiency

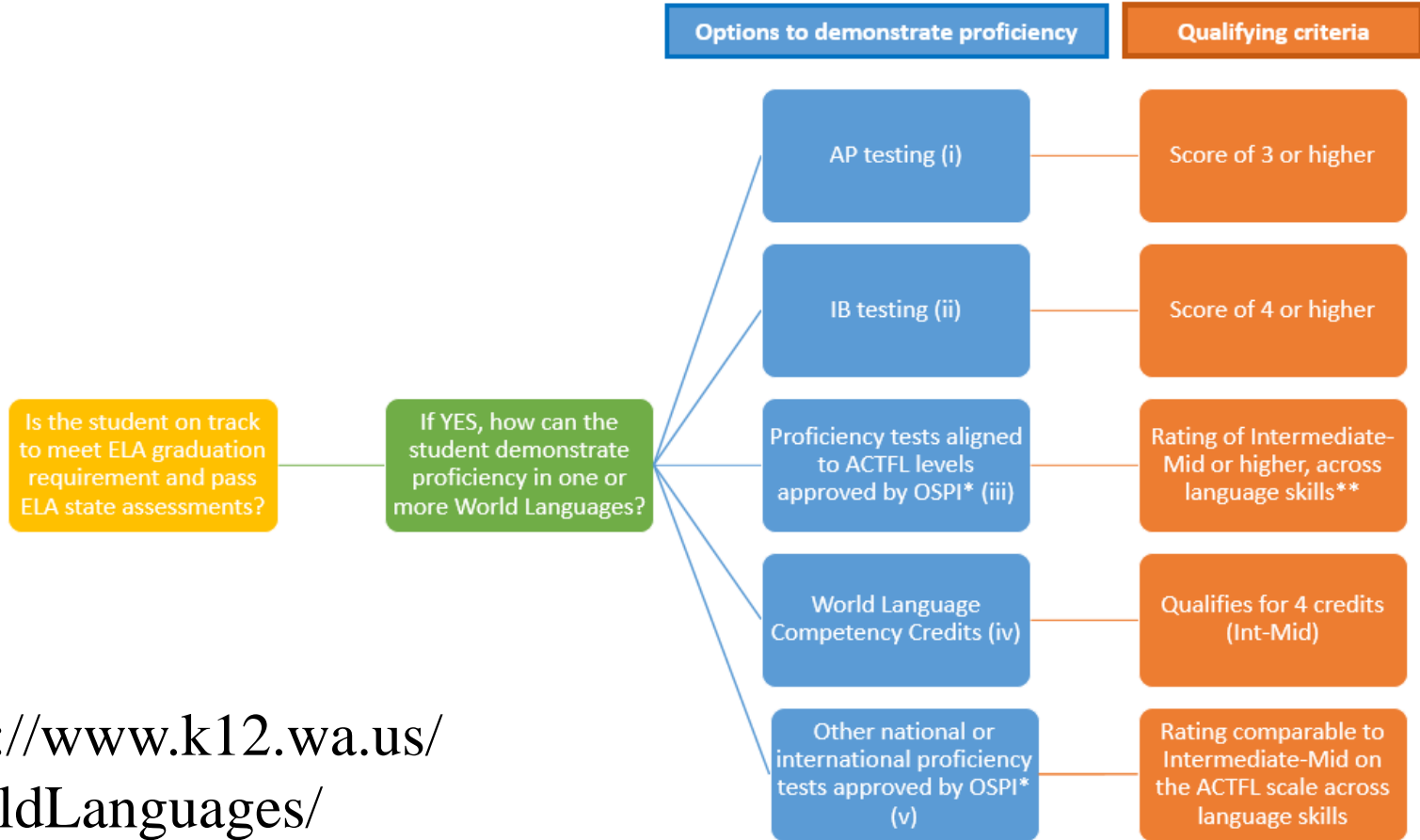
“The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall also **report the methods used** by students to demonstrate proficiency for the Washington state seal of biliteracy, and describe how the office of the superintendent of public instruction plans to **increase the number of possible methods** for students to demonstrate proficiency, **particularly in world languages that are not widely spoken.**”

# OSPI: Charged with Developing the Criteria

- Convened Seal of Biliteracy Advisory Committee
  - Met twice (Sept 2014, Feb 2015)
- Recommended Criteria:
  - AP or IB testing
  - Demonstrated proficiency of Intermediate Mid or higher
  - Competency-Based Credit Testing (4 credits)
  - Other national or international tests approved by Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- OSPI enacted the rules (WAC)

<http://www.k12.wa.us/WorldLanguages/AdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

# IDENTIFYING STUDENTS FOR THE SEAL OF BILITERACY FLOW CHART

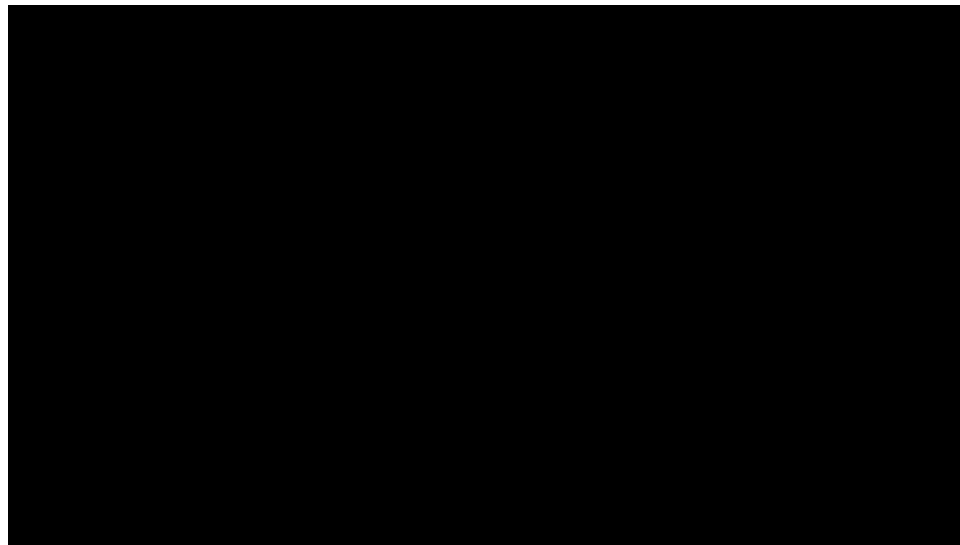


<http://www.k12.wa.us/WorldLanguages/SealofBiliteracy.aspx>

**\*Who would need to this?**  
 Students that have not had the opportunity for IB, AP or competency based testing. This would include students taking multiple years of high school or online World Language classes.

**\*\*Language Skills** must include speaking, reading and writing

# Impact of Competency-Based Credits (& the Seal)



<https://youtu.be/tgCMhiM1N-o>

<http://www.k12.wa.us/WorldLanguages/CompetencyBasedCredits.aspx>



# For more information

<http://www.k12.wa.us/WorldLanguages/SealofBiliteracy.aspx>



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