



# Community Unit School District 303

Donald D. Schlomann, Ph.D. • Superintendent of Schools • (331) 228-2000

Dear Students & Parents/Guardians,

St. Charles CUSD 303 honors qualifying students with the Seal of Biliteracy. This seal is to recognize students who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English and another language. Students must meet the state approved proficiency level on both state approved English and foreign language assessments. Applying for this recognition is voluntary and the families are responsible for the cost associated with taking the qualifying assessments. Once the student has demonstrated proficiency in English and another language, the designation will be added to the student's transcript and affixed to the diploma upon graduation. Illinois school code requires each public university and community college in the state of Illinois to accept the State Seal of Biliteracy as equivalent to two years of foreign language coursework taken in high school. Furthermore, it also requires Illinois public universities and community colleges to establish criteria to translate a State Seal of Biliteracy into course credit based on foreign language course equivalencies. Students are required to request this opportunity from the university/community college they attend.

In order to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, each student must demonstrate proficiency in English and another language during high school. Students who approach the criteria but do not meet it may be eligible for the Commendation toward Biliteracy. The table below provides information about the qualifying tests and scores a student must achieve.

| Assessments                                       | Language(s)   | Seal of Biliteracy Minimum Qualifying Score               | Commendation toward Biliteracy Minimum Qualifying Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Culture exam | Chinese<br>French<br>German<br>Italian<br>Japanese<br>Spanish                                   | 4   | 3   |
| Advanced Placement (AP) Latin                     | Latin   | 4   | 3   |
| ACTFL (AAPPL) Measure                             | Arabic<br>Chinese (Mandarin)<br>English<br>French<br>German<br>Portuguese<br>Russian<br>Spanish | I-5 (form B)<br>(for all four components)                 | I-1<br>(for all four components)                        |
| ACTFL (ALIRA)                                     | Latin   | I-5 (form B)  | I-1   |
| ACCESS for ELLs                                   | English   | 5 overall composite and 4.2 in reading and 4.2 in writing | 3.5 literacy (reading + writing average)                |
| ACT   | English   | 18 on the English Test <b>or</b> 21 composite score       |   |
| SAT   | English   | Qualifying score(s) on the SAT yet to be released by ISBE |   |

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For freshman, sophomores, and juniors, AP Exam scores can be used to demonstrate proficiency, and the AAPPL test may not be required. If a senior has taken an approved assessment in previous years and met the minimum criteria, that score can be used to demonstrate proficiency.

The ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) and the ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA) will be administered by District 303. AAPPL Measure is comprised of four components: Interpretive Listening, Interpretive Reading, Interpersonal Listening and Speaking, and Presentational Writing.

The AAPPL Measure is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Additional information can be found at <http://aappl.actfl.org/>.

The ALIRA measures the student's ability to read for comprehension a variety of Latin-language texts. Additional information can be found at <http://www.languagetesting.com/alira-the-actfl-latin-interpretive-reading-assessment>.

The two testing dates are Saturday, April 8 (St. Charles North HS - LRC) and Saturday, April 22 (St. Charles East HS - LRC). **Any student can attend either date regardless of the high school currently attending.** Testing will begin at 8 am at both schools, and the test typically takes three hours. Students wishing to take multiple tests should plan to sign up for both dates.

At this time, other languages are not available through proficiency exam in District 303, but if you have been attending a school outside of District 303 for another language, it is possible for your school to provide verification of the required language proficiency level. Please see <http://www.isbe.net/grants/pdf/ethnic-fl-progs15-16.pdf> for ISBE approved school.

Included with this letter is an Intent to Participate and Proficiency Exam Registration forms. Any student interested in attaining the Seal of Biliteracy (or Commendation toward Biliteracy) should complete the Intent to Participate form. Only students wanting to take a proficiency examination through District 303 should fill out the Proficiency Exam Registration form. Both forms can be turned in to the Assistant Principal for Instructional Programs at your home high school.

Please consider applying for this special recognition. If you have any questions, please ask your school counselor, foreign language/ELL teacher, or the Assistant Principal for Instructional Programs at your home high school.

Sincerely,



Renee Reynolds  
Assistant Principal - Instructional Programs  
St. Charles North High School



Jim Richter  
Assistant Principal - Instructional Programs  
St. Charles East High School

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# Seal of Biliteracy

## Intent to Participate

(All interested students should fill out)

I have received information regarding the Seal of Biliteracy offered by the state of Illinois. By signing below, I submit my intent to participate in testing to achieve the Seal of Biliteracy from the state of Illinois. I understand I will be notified of the testing date and procedures that will occur during second semester. I also understand I will have to pay a \$30 fee, per test, to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy through an exam other than an AP exam.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Language Class (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Current Foreign Language Teacher (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this notice of Intent to Participate for the Seal of Biliteracy to the Assistant Principal of Instructional Programs, in the Main Office of your high school, by **Wednesday, March 15, 2017**.

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# Seal of Biliteracy

## Proficiency Exam Registration

(Fill out only if interested in testing on 4/8/17 and/or 4/22/17)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_\_\_

Please select the language (s) in which you would like to take the proficiency exam:

\_\_\_\_\_ Arabic

\_\_\_\_\_ Chinese

\_\_\_\_\_ English

\_\_\_\_\_ French

\_\_\_\_\_ German

\_\_\_\_\_ Latin

\_\_\_\_\_ Portuguese

\_\_\_\_\_ Russian

\_\_\_\_\_ Spanish

Please select the testing session(s) you would like to attend. If you are wishing to earn multiple Seals of Biliteracy, please select one session per language you need to demonstrate proficiency.

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, April 8 at North High School LRC 8:00 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, April 22 at East High School LRC 8:00 a.m.

The cost of each proficiency test is \$30. Please include cash or check, made out to CUSD 303, and return this completed form by **Wednesday, March 15** to the Assistant Principal for Instructional Programs, in the Main Office of your high school.

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