

Seal of Biliteracy Awards

Data Element	Mandatory	Data Type	Code	Value	Description	Validation Rules / Notes
<p>To add or to update a Seal of Biliteracy Award record, the student has a valid district enrollment record in SIS by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment record Home RCDTS matches Seal of Biliteracy record's Home RCDTS • Enrollment record School Year matches Seal of Biliteracy record's School Year • Seal or Commendation code does not equal Code 99 – Erroneous • Student must be exited as Graduated in SIS <p>Only the most recent Exited Enrollment Home RCDT can add/edit a Seal of Biliteracy Award. Only Home Schools can add an Illinois Seal of Biliteracy Award record to a student. Only students in grades 11- 12 can have an Illinois Seal of Biliteracy Award record entered.</p> <p>In accordance with Section 2-3.159 of the School Code, a school district may establish a program to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English, by designating on a student's transcript and high school diploma his or her receipt of the State Seal of Biliteracy, provided that all the conditions of this Section are met.</p> <p>More information on the Seal of Biliteracy can be found at: https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Seal-of-Biliteracy.aspx</p>						
Seal or Commendation	Mandatory	Char(2)			The Seal of Biliteracy was established in Illinois to recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English (105 ILCS 5/2-3.159).	
			01	Seal		
			02	Commendation		
			99	Erroneous		
Language of Award	Mandatory	Char(3)				
					See Language Code Data Elements	
Method of Demonstrating English Proficiency	Mandatory	Char(2)				
			01	English learner student meets the state proficient level on the ACCESS for ELs administered in any of grades 9-12.		Can be used for Seal or Commendation.

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			02 (Retired, SY2026)	Student achieves a “meets” or “exceeds” level in ELA on the state academic assessment administered at the secondary level.	This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. Refer to replacement code 12.	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.
			03 (Retired, SY2026)	Student obtains a composite score equivalent to Intermediate High or above (ACTFL proficiency levels) on the TOEFL, TOEIC or AAPPL or another standardized assessment meeting the requirements of 1.442(a)(1)(A)(iii) and either subsection (a)(1)(A)(i) or (ii), as applicable.	This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. Refer to replacement code 13.	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.
			04	English learner student meets the state level for part-time TBE placement on the ACCESS for ELs administered in any of grades 9-12.		ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy.
			05 (Retired, SY2026)	Student obtains a composite score equivalent to Intermediate Low or above (ACTFL proficiency levels) on the TOEFL, TOEIC or AAPPL or another standardized assessment meeting the requirements of 1.442(a)(1)(A)(iii) and either subsection (a)(1)(A)(i) or (ii), as applicable.	This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. Refer to replacement code 14.	ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy.
			06 (Retired, SY2026)	Student meets the ACT college ready benchmark for the English subject area test or achieves a composite score of at least 21 on the ACT.	This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. There is no replacement code.	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.

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			07	ESSA College and Career Indicator: Student has a final GPA of 3.0 in transitional coursework in ELA articulated in partnership with a community college.		Can be used for Seal or Commendation.
			08	ESSA College and Career Indicator: Student has a final GPA of 2.5 in transitional coursework in ELA articulated in partnership with a community college.		ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy.
			09	Score of 5 on the AP English Language and Composition Exam.		Can be used for Seal or Commendation.
			10	Score of 4 on the AP English Language and Composition Exam.		Can be used for Seal or Commendation.
			11	Score of 3 on the AP English Language and Composition Exam.		ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy.
			12	Student achieves a “meets” or “exceeds” level in ELA on the state academic assessment administered at the secondary level, meeting the requirements of 680.20(b)(1)(A).	Administrative Code: https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023006800000200R.html As of October 1, 2025, this means an ACT + writing ELA score of at least 18.	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.
			13	Student obtains a score equivalent to Intermediate High or above or its equivalent on an approved assessment meeting the requirements of 680.20(b)(1)(C).	Administrative Code: https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023006800000200R.html	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.
			14	Student obtains a score equivalent to Intermediate Low or above or its equivalent on an approved assessment	Administrative Code: https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023006800000200R.html	ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy.

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Data Element	Mandatory	Data Type	Code	Value	Description	Validation Rules / Notes
				meeting the requirements of 680.20(c)(1) as applicable.		
Method of Demonstrating Proficiency in Language Other than English	Mandatory	Char(2)				
			01 <i>(Retired, SY2026)</i>	Student obtains a composite score equivalent to Intermediate High or above (ACTFL proficiency guidelines) on an assessment of reading, writing, listening and speaking in the target language that is accepted by ISBE (or in an assessment of reading in Latin that is accepted by ISBE).	<i>This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. Refer to replacement code 07.</i>	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.
			02 <i>(Retired, SY2026)</i>	Student obtains a score equivalent to ACTFL Intermediate High level (meeting progress indicators for 12th grade set forth in the Standards for Learning American Sign Language (2014)) or above on an assessment of American Sign Language. The assessment must be designed according to research-based national or international standards for educational testing.	<i>This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. There is no replacement code.</i>	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.
			03 <i>(Retired, SY2026)</i>	Student demonstrates proficiency equivalent to ACTFL Intermediate High level or above in reading, writing, listening and speaking or in ASL (meeting progress indicators for 12 th grade set	<i>This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. There is no replacement code.</i>	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.

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				forth in the Standards for Learning American Sign Language (2014)) or in reading Latin through the alternative evidence method.		
			04 (Retired, SY2026)	Student obtains a composite score equivalent to Intermediate Low or above (ACTFL proficiency guidelines) on an assessment of reading, writing, listening and speaking in the target language that is accepted by ISBE (or in an assessment of reading in Latin that is accepted by ISBE).	This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. Refer to replacement code 08.	ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy.
			05 (Retired, SY2026)	Student obtains a score equivalent to ACTFL Intermediate Low or above on an assessment of American Sign Language. The assessment must be designed according to research-based national or international standards for educational testing.	This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. There is no replacement code.	ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy.
			06 (Retired, SY2026)	Student demonstrates proficiency equivalent to Intermediate Low or above (ACTFL proficiency guidelines) through the alternative evidence method.	This code is no longer available beginning SY2026. Refer to replacement code 09.	ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy.
			07	Student obtains a score equivalent to Intermediate High or above or its equivalent on an approved assessment meeting the	Administrative Code: https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023006800000200R.html	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.

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				requirements of 680.20(b)(1) as applicable.		
			08	Student obtains a score equivalent to Intermediate Low or above or its equivalent on an approved assessment meeting the requirements of 680.20(b)(1) as applicable.	Administrative Code: https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023006800000200R.html	ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy
			09	Student demonstrates proficiency equivalent to Intermediate Low or above or its equivalent through the alternative evidence method meeting the requirements of 680.20(a)(3) as applicable.	Administrative Code: https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023006800000200R.html	ONLY used for Commendation of Biliteracy.
			10	Student demonstrates proficiency equivalent to Intermediate High or above or its equivalent through the alternative evidence method meeting the requirements of 680.20(a)(3) as applicable.	Administrative Code: https://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023006800000200R.html	Can be used for Seal or Commendation.