



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools

**FROM:** Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education 

**DATE:** September 29, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines

At the September 6, 2017, State Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy and accompanying guidelines for voluntary use by interested school districts.

The Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines (the Guidelines) were developed through a collaborative effort of a variety of stakeholders including representatives from Connecticut school districts, Connecticut Administrators of Programs for ELLs (CAPELL), Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (CT COLT), the American School for the Deaf (ASD), institutions of higher education, the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association (CT PTA) and the Regional Educational Service Centers (RESC) Alliance. The Guidelines are intended to assist interested districts in implementing the Seal of Biliteracy to students who have studied and attained proficiency in English and one or more other languages by high school graduation. The Guidelines describe paths to proficiency for awarding the Seal of Biliteracy, methods for earning the Seal of Biliteracy, eligibility criteria, and equitable access for all students.

Affixed on the high school diploma and transcript, the Seal of Biliteracy provides recognition of a critical 21<sup>st</sup> century language and communication skill. The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes the value of students' academic efforts, the tangible benefits of being bilingual and biliterate and prepares students to be global citizens in a multicultural, multilingual world. The Seal of Biliteracy acknowledges that mastery of two or more languages is a valuable asset for both individuals and their communities. In addition, the Seal of Biliteracy provides recognition to English learners (ELs) for the great value of developing English and maintaining their primary language.

The Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines are posted on the Connecticut State Department of Education's Web site on the [English Learners Page](#) and on the [World Languages Page](#). For more information, please contact Megan Alubicki Flick, English Learner Consultant, at [megan.alubicki@ct.gov](mailto:megan.alubicki@ct.gov) or (860) 713-6786.

DRW:maf

cc: Ellen E. Cohn, Deputy Commissioner  
Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director  
Megan Alubicki Flick, English Learner Consultant, Academic Office