

Minnesota Bilingual and Multilingual Seals and World Language Proficiency Certificates



1. What are Bilingual and Multilingual Seals and World Language Proficiency certificates?

Minnesota districts and charter schools may award Minnesota bilingual and multilingual seals to high school graduates who demonstrate the required levels of language proficiency in speaking, writing, reading and listening for languages other than English, including American Sign Language (ASL) and American Indian (indigenous) languages in grades 10, 11, 12 regardless of how the language was learned. Bilingual and multilingual seals are awarded upon graduation. World language proficiency certificates can be awarded when students meet proficiency requirements. [Read details of the legislation.](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=120B.022) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=120B.022>)

2. What are the benefits of earning a bilingual seal or a world language proficiency certificates?

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (Minnesota State) will award free college semester credits to graduating high school students who receive bilingual and multilingual seals and world language proficiency certificates. Students must request the college semester credits within three academic years of graduation from high school and upon enrollment in a Minnesota State college or university.

3. How many semesters will Minnesota State colleges and universities award for seals and world language proficiency certificates?

The chart below shows the number of college semesters earned for each award and the required proficiency level based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines.

| Certificates, Seals | ACTFL Proficiency Level | Credits |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| World language proficiency certificate | Intermediate-Low | 2 semesters |
| Gold bilingual or multilingual seal | Intermediate-High | 3 semesters per language |
| Platinum bilingual or multilingual seal | Advanced-Low | 4 semesters per language |

4. What are the other requirements for a bilingual or multilingual seal?

In addition to demonstrating the required proficiency levels in a language other than English on an assessment based on the America Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) students must:

- Demonstrate mastery of Minnesota's English language proficiency standards
- Satisfactorily complete all required English language arts credits

5. Can students earn high school elective credit for a seal or a world language proficiency certificate?

Yes, [the legislation states](#), "A school district or charter school may award elective course credits in world languages to a student who demonstrates the requisite proficiency in a language other than English under this section." (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=120B.022>)

6. Which assessments can be used to assess students' language proficiency levels?

Proficiency assessments must be based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines. A list of assessments can be found [on the Minnesota Department of Education \(MDE\) World Language web page](#). (<https://education.state.mn.us/MDE/dse/stds/world/>)

7. How can students be assessed for languages, if there are no ACTFL-based assessments available?

"Where valid and reliable assessments are unavailable, a school district or charter school may rely on evaluators trained in assessing under ACTFL proficiency guidelines to assess a student's level of foreign, heritage, or indigenous language proficiency." 120B.022 Elective Standards.

MDE has worked with ACTFL and native speaker teachers and native speakers of some of the languages of English Learners (ELs) and indigenous American Indian languages to develop assessments to meet the criteria for bilingual seals and world language proficiency certificates.

8. How can schools obtain state seals and certificates?

Bilingual and multilingual seals and world language proficiency certificates can be requested by completing the form found on the MDE World Language web page and sending it to: [MDE World Language email](#)

(MDE.WorldLang@state.mn.us). For questions, contact [Ursula Lentz](#) (ursula.lentz@state.mn.us).