

Part 3 Chapter 99: State Schools

Rule 99.3 Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy for Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science

Introduction

The State Board of Education (SBE) is committed to preparing every student who enrolls in Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) to graduate from high school college and career ready. Students will have the skills, capacities, and dispositions necessary to participate fully in the 21st century economic, scientific, political, cultural, and intellectual life of our global society. Achieving high levels of academic competency in both English and at least one other world language is an integral part of making the vision of student accessibility to success a reality.

Therefore, to encourage and recognize linguistic proficiency and cultural literacy, MSMS will include a Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy on each graduating high school student's transcript who demonstrates proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.

Purpose of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy

- Recognize students who attain a high level of proficiency in two or more languages including English.
- Provide employers and postsecondary institutions with biliterate students who are able to perform high level academic and professional tasks in another language as well as English.
- Assign high status to students who demonstrate biliterate competence in English and in at least one additional world language.
- Revitalize, promote, and encourage the development of effective dual language immersion, world language, and heritage language pathways in grades 9-12 that prepare students to successfully interact in the global marketplace of the 21st Century.
- Build on student strengths, recognizing that home language and culture are valued resources that contribute to academic success.

Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Eligibility

Every Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy student candidate needs to complete an application with his/her counselor to begin the process to obtain the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy.

Native or non-native English speakers who meet the following criteria before the senior year or the spring semester before graduation:

1. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in **English** by meeting the current MDE minimum score requirements as outlined on the *Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy* website.
2. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in **a world language** other than English by meeting the criteria as outlined on the *Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy* website.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3* (Adopted 5/2022)