



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 7.3

Meeting Date: June 18, 2020

Subject: Recognition for Student Recipients of the California State Seal of Bilingualism

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Academic Office

Recommendation: The high school seniors who are awarded the Seal of Bilingualism have demonstrated outstanding achievement in two languages, and the Board is asked to publicly recognize them.

Background/Rationale: The California State Seal of Bilingualism is an award given to graduating high school students who have studied and attained proficiency in English and one or more other languages. The criteria for achieving the Seal of Bilingualism are laid out in AB 815 (Brownley). All students must achieve at high levels in English/Language Arts on the statewide achievement test, CAASPP, and in English classes. Additionally, students must show competency in another world language through high school coursework, testing through the AP or IB programs, or by passing a state-approved test in the target language that includes reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Financial Considerations: All costs associated with awarding the Seal of Bilingualism are paid by federal Title III funds.

LCAP Goal(s): College, Career and Life Ready Graduates

Documents Attached:

1. Summary of the SCUSD 2020 Seal of Bilingualism

Estimated Time of Presentation: 15 min
 Submitted by: Christine Baeta, Chief Academic Officer
 Vanessa Girard, Director, Multilingual Literacy
 Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

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I. OVERVIEW / HISTORY

The California State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to graduating high school students who have studied and attained proficiency in English and one or more other languages. All students must achieve at high levels in English/Language Arts classes and on the grade 11 statewide ELA achievement test, CAASPP. Additionally, students must show competency in another world language through high school coursework, testing through the AP or IB programs, or by passing a state-approved test that includes reading, writing, listening and speaking in the target language.

II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE

The SCUSD Seal of Biliteracy program is run in accordance with the CA Ed.G.E. Initiative (Prop 58) and the CA EL Roadmap.

III. BUDGET

Costs for the Seal of Biliteracy are paid by Title III.

IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MEASURES

Our goal is to increase the number of students who receive the Seal and the number of world languages for which the Seal is awarded by 15%. We are proud that this year we maintained the number of students in a pandemic year. The number of world languages for which the Seal was awarded decreased by one.

V. MAJOR INITIATIVES

The Sacramento City Unified School District has continuously grown its Seal of Biliteracy program. In 2020, 312 students will receive the award. Of these, 265 students prequalified for the Seal by completing world language coursework or by passing AP or SAT II exams.

The other group of Seal recipients passed a state-approved Seal of Biliteracy test that includes reading, writing, speaking and listening. This test is administered annually to more than 100 students at Serna on a given day in May. However, COVID-19 changed that.

When the mid-March closure came, schools were still identifying students who felt they had sufficient language skills to take the rigorous exam. Just one school had completed their search of students.

Once SCUSD received word from the Sacramento County Office of Education that districts were allowed to test languages at a distance, the Multilingual Literacy and Curriculum and Instruction Offices jumped into gear. Soon, ten training specialists and coordinators began contacting 30 of their “own” students from the master list. The plan was to shepherd these students—supporting them logistically, technically and emotionally—through all the steps of the Seal exam process:

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- Helping students to self-assess their language skills in order to determine if they should sign up for the exam
- Signing up for the first Seal exam on Zoom, an oral 1:1 interview with a language examiner and notifying students of results
- Signing up for the second Seal exam on Zoom, a written exam that is conducted on camera in front of a proctor and notifying student of results

After three weeks and more than 2000 emails, 300 phone calls, and 24 Zoom sessions, SCUSD tested 67 seniors in 10 languages. Forty-one passed.

Our district is bursting with pride for these 21st century students who bring the benefit of their academic skill, diversity, and language knowledge to their local and global communities. And this year, we are also proud of the adults in our system, who took on a huge, messy task in addition to their regular duties and made it work for kids.

VI. RESULTS

SCUSD Students Recipients of the 2020 Seal of Biliteracy, by School

High School	Number of Seal Recipients Who Prequalified for the Seal	Number of Seal Recipients Who Tested for the Seal	
Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions	0	3	
C. K. McClatchy HS	67	3	
George W. Carver SAS	1	0	
Hiram W. Johnson HS	8	2	
John F. Kennedy HS	38	12	
Luther Burbank HS	54	11	
Rosemont HS	16	11	
School of Engineering and Science	1	2	
The Met HS	1	0	
West Campus HS	80	1	
TOTAL	265	48	314

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World Language	# 2020 Seal Recipients
Armenian	1
Chinese	6
French	44
German	21
Hmong	15
Japanese	22
Latin	5
Russian	4
Spanish	191
Tagalog	5

VII. LESSONS LEARNED / NEXT STEPS

Moving the Seal of Biliteracy identification and testing process online required the development of a new process and infrastructure, which we have already improved upon and documented. In the case that we are required to conduct the process online again, we are prepared.