

**SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- Date:** April 24, 2017
- To:** Area Superintendents, Principals, Vice Principals, Head Counselors, Division and Department Heads, Dual and World Language Teachers
- Subject:** ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL PATHWAY TO BILITERACY AWARD FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K, 5<sup>th</sup> AND 8<sup>th</sup> IN 2016-2017
- Departments and/or Persons Concerned:** Area Superintendents, Principals, Vice Principals, Head Counselors, Division and Department Heads, Biliteracy/Dual Language Teachers of K and 5th Grade and students in SLIM/World Language Courses 8th Grade
- Due Date:** Submit all verification documents and list of students to the Office of Language Acquisition by June 30, 2017
- Reference:**
1. Resolution establishing the Elementary School Pathway to Biliteracy for Eligible K, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students
- Action Requested:**
1. Ensure all K, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students currently enrolled in Biliteracy/Dual Language programs receive the information on the Elementary/Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award.
  2. Ensure that all K, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are currently enrolled in Dual/World Language courses receive the application form for Elementary/Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award.
  3. Ensure that teachers/school counselors work with students to review the application and determine eligibility for receiving the Elementary/Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award.
  4. Create a certificate for students using the template provided or contact OLA to request the electronic template.
- Attachments:**
- A. Sample certificate for K, and sample certificate and application for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to receive the Elementary/Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award upon promotion to next grade level in spring 2017.
  - B. Frequently Asked Questions

**Brief Explanation:**

The Elementary/Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award is an award granted to students in Kindergarten, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade certifying that they are in the process of achieving mastery of two or more languages. The Pathway Award is directly linked to the Language Learning Policy adopted by the San Diego Unified School District Board of Trustees in August of 2009, which recognizes that “in addition to being academically prepared and fully proficient in English, all students benefit from being proficient in another language”. In addition, attainment of the Pathway Award clearly advances tenets of the District’s Vision 2020 and the CA Multilingual Education Act of 2016 (Prop 58) plan for “preparing our students for the competitive global economy they will face in the years ahead” and the

Vision 2020 goal to ensure that “students from all backgrounds in our district develop the ability to communicate in two languages.” Qualifying students will receive the Elementary/Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

The student application form explains the specific criteria that must be met and documented in order for students to fulfill the requirements for the Elementary or Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award.

Recognizing that unique situations may arise with regard to student eligibility, please refer to Attachment 2, **Frequently Asked Questions**. For additional information or questions, contact Sandra Cephas or Michael McVeigh in the Office of Language Acquisition, (619) 725-7264.

Sandra Cephas  
Director  
Office of Language Acquisition

APPROVED:



Jim Solo  
Executive Director  
Office of Leadership and Learning

Attachments (4)



**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BILITERACY AWARD  
Student Application**

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**I have met the following eligibility requirements:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I am demonstrating progress in English by **(one of the following)**:
  - a. \_\_\_\_ Attaining Standards Met/Exceeded on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts section of the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium **OR**,
  - b. \_\_\_\_ Attaining Proficient/grade level on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade district/site literacy assessment administered in the second and/or third reporting period **OR**,
  - c. \_\_\_\_ I have been identified as an Initially Fluent English Speaker, **OR** if I was Initially identified as an English Learner, I have been Redesignated as a Fluent English Speaker.
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I am demonstrating progress in a language other than English by completing two writing tasks, one written in English and one written in Spanish, Mandarin or French and received a grade of 70% or higher.

**Task 1:** Write a personal narrative describing a personal experience where being bilingual was beneficial and explaining importance of being multilingual and multicultural.

**Task 2:** Write an expository essay that addresses the research-based advantages and benefits of being multilingual and multicultural (i.e. cognitive benefits/career choices).

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

**The candidate has:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Successfully met the eligibility requirements for the **Elementary School Biliteracy Award**.

Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please forward a list of all eligible students from your school site to the Office of Language Acquisition, Ed Center, Room 2009 on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>. Attention: Sandra Cephas, Director**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL BILITERACY ATTAINMENT AWARD  
Student Application**

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**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ID #** \_\_\_\_\_

***I wish to apply and be considered for the Middle School Biliteracy Attainment Award upon 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion.***

I understand that learning and communicating in two languages (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) is beneficial to me because:

My family's language and culture is important to me, and, being biliterate prepares me

- to become a leader in my community,
- to be successful in middle school , high school, and college,
- for a variety of careers,
- to travel and communicate with people in different parts of the world.

I understand that in order to receive the **Middle School Biliteracy Attainment Award** at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, which leads to the Seal of Biliteracy Award when I graduate from high school, I will complete the requirements listed on the backside of this form.

**SIGNATURES:**

**Student** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MIDDLE SCHOOL BILITERACY ATTAINMENT AWARD  
Student Application**

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**I have met the following eligibility requirements:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I am demonstrating progress in English by **(one of the following)**:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Attaining Standards Met/Exceeded on the 7th grade English Language Arts section of the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC), **OR**,
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ Attaining Proficient on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade district/site literacy assessment **OR** a grade of C or higher in English Language Arts 1<sup>st</sup> semester.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ I have been identified as an Initially Fluent English Speaker, **OR**, if I was initially identified as an English Learner, I have been **Redesignated** as a **Fluent English Speaker**. (NOTE: This criteria applies only to students who were initially identified as English Learners)
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I am demonstrating progress in a language other than English **(one of the following)**:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Through the successful completion and oral presentation of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade bilingual culminating portfolio **OR**,
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ By completing two writing tasks, one written in English and one written in Spanish, Mandarin or French and received a grade of 70% or higher.

**Task 1:** Write a personal narrative describing a personal experience where being bilingual was beneficial and explaining importance of being multilingual and multicultural.

**Task 2:** Write an expository essay that addresses the research-based advantages and benefits of being multilingual and multicultural (i.e cognitive benefits/career choices.).

**The candidate has:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Successfully met the eligibility requirements for the **Middle School Biliteracy Attainment Award**.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please forward a list of all eligible students from your school site to the Office of Language Acquisition, Ed Center, Room 2009 on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>. Attention: Sandra Cephas, Director**

# Kindergarten Commitment to Biliteracy Award

The Office of Language Acquisition proudly awards this certificate of  
commitment to Biliteracy

We congratulate you and recognize your progress  
toward achieving the biliteracy skills that are  
necessary for active and responsible  
participation in the global, social and economic  
life of the 21st century.

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Language Acquisition

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Principal

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_

# Elementary Biliteracy Award

## On the Pathway to the California Seal of Biliteracy

The Office of Language Acquisition proudly awards this certificate of achievement in Spanish

We congratulate you and recognize your progress toward achieving the biliteracy skills that are necessary for active and responsible participation in the global, social and economic life of the 21st century.

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Language Acquisition

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Principal

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_



# Elementary Biliteracy Award

## On the Pathway to the California Seal of Biliteracy

The Office of Language Acquisition proudly awards this certificate of achievement in French

We congratulate you and recognize your progress toward achieving the biliteracy skills that are necessary for active and responsible participation in the global, social and economic life of the 21st century.

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Language Acquisition

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Principal

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_

# Elementary Biliteracy Award

## On the Pathway to the California Seal of Biliteracy

The Office of Language Acquisition proudly awards this certificate of achievement in Mandarin

We congratulate you and recognize your progress toward achieving the biliteracy skills that are necessary for active and responsible participation in the global, social and economic life of the 21st century.

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Language Acquisition

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Principal

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_

## **Pathway to Biliteracy Award *Frequently Asked Questions***

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### ***What is the “Pathway to Biliteracy Award?”***

- Students will be recognized for their commitment to continue developing two or more languages.

### ***Is there a cost?***

- There is no cost incurred by students who receive the Pathway to Biliteracy Award.

### ***Does a student’s GPA matter?***

- Students in grade 8 must maintain a minimum overall grade point average of 2.0 in order to receive the Pathway to Biliteracy Award.

### ***Do English learners need to be re-designated as English proficient speakers?***

- No, however students must demonstrate progress in acquiring English. Please see requirement 1 on the application for further details. However, please be advised that one of the requirements to receive the SDUSD Seal of Biliteracy in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, is reclassification.

### ***Does a student’s current dual/biliteracy/world language teacher need to approve the application?***

- The student’s dual/biliteracy/world language teacher does not need to approve the application. However, it is expected that the dual/biliteracy/world language teacher will monitor students’ progress and provide appropriate supports and interventions to ensure that the student continue to progress in the target language and that students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade maintain an overall grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

If you have additional questions or need additional information, please contact:  
Michael McVeigh, World Language Resource Teacher: [mmcveigh@sandi.net](mailto:mmcveigh@sandi.net)