

27 signified on a high school graduate's diploma and transcript as
 28 either a Gold or a Silver Seal of Biliteracy.

29 (b) "Foreign language" means a language other than English
 30 and includes American Sign Language, classical languages, and
 31 indigenous languages.

32 (c) "Gold" means the highest level of competency signified
 33 by the Seal of Biliteracy.

34 (d) "Silver" means the second-highest level of competency
 35 signified by the Seal of Biliteracy.

36 (2) The Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program is established
 37 to recognize a high school graduate who has attained a high
 38 level of competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing
 39 in one or more foreign languages in addition to English. The
 40 Commissioner of Education shall award the Seal of Biliteracy
 41 upon graduation to a high school student who meets the
 42 qualifications in this section. The seal must differentiate
 43 between two levels of competency, designated as "Gold" or
 44 "Silver," which must be at least as rigorous as is recommended
 45 in the biliteracy seal guidelines established by national
 46 organizations supporting foreign languages instruction.

47 (3) The purpose of the Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program
 48 is to:

49 (a) Encourage students to study foreign languages.

50 (b) Certify attainment of biliteracy.

51 (c) Provide employers with a method of identifying an
 52 individual with biliteracy skills.

53 (d) Provide a postsecondary institution with a method to
 54 recognize an applicant with biliteracy skills who is seeking
 55 admission to the postsecondary institution.

56 (e) Recognize and promote foreign language instruction in
 57 public schools.

58 (f) Affirm the value of diversity, honor multiple cultures
 59 and foreign languages, and strengthen the relationships between
 60 multiple cultures in a community.

61 (4) The Gold or the Silver Seal of Biliteracy must be
 62 awarded to a high school student who has earned a standard high
 63 school diploma and who has earned four course credits in the
 64 same foreign language with a cumulative 3.0 grade point average
 65 or higher on a 4.0 scale, by achieving a qualifying score on a
 66 foreign language assessment, or through alternative means, as
 67 determined by the State Board of Education pursuant to
 68 subsection (8).

69 (5) The Commissioner of Education shall:

70 (a) Prepare and provide to each school district an
 71 appropriate insignia to be affixed to the student's diploma
 72 indicating that the student has been awarded the Gold or the
 73 Silver Seal of Biliteracy.

74 (b) Provide information that is necessary for a school
 75 district to successfully implement the program.

76 (6) Each school district shall:

77 (a) Maintain appropriate records to identify a student who
 78 has met the requirements to receive the Gold or the Silver Seal

79 of Biliteracy.

80 (b) Provide the Commissioner of Education with the number
 81 of students who have met the requirements to receive the Gold or
 82 the Silver Seal of Biliteracy.

83 (c) Affix the appropriate insignia to the student's
 84 diploma and indicate on the student's transcript that the
 85 student has earned the Gold or the Silver Seal of Biliteracy.

86 (7) A school district or the Department of Education may
 87 not charge a fee for the Seal of Biliteracy.

88 (8) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
 89 implement this section. Such rules, at a minimum, must include:

90 (a) A process to confirm a student's successful completion
 91 of the requirements of subsection (4).

92 (b) The assessments and corresponding scores required to
 93 earn the Gold or the Silver Seal of Biliteracy, which may not be
 94 set lower than the assessments' passing scores, on at least one
 95 of the following:

96 1. An International Baccalaureate examination in the
 97 foreign language;

98 2. An Advanced Placement examination in the foreign
 99 language;

100 3. An SAT Subject Test examination in the foreign
 101 language; or

102 4. An Advanced International Certificate of Education
 103 examination in the foreign language.

104 (c) Alternative means by which a student may demonstrate

105 equivalent competency in a foreign language, including the means
106 by which a student whose native language is not English may
107 demonstrate competency in his or her native language to earn the
108 Gold or the Silver Seal of Biliteracy.

109 (d) The award of foreign language course credits to a
110 student who was not enrolled in a foreign language course or who
111 did not complete the course but has demonstrated competency in a
112 manner identified by the State Board of Education under this
113 subsection.

114 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.