

USD #435 "SEAL OF BILITERACY" RESOLUTION

Preamble and Rationale:

Whereas mastery of two or more languages makes important contributions to a student's cognitive development, understanding of diverse cultures, and economic opportunities

Whereas the study of foreign languages contributes towards our national economy and our national security.

Whereas multiple languages are a critical element in enabling our communities and state to participate effectively in a global political, social and economic context.

Whereas the demand for employees to be fluent in more than one language is increasing in Kansas and throughout the world

Therefore, it is the intent of our district to promote the development of literacy in two or more languages and to provide recognition of the attainment of those needed and important skills through the establishment of a Seal of Biliteracy on the high school transcripts of pupils attaining functional proficiency in one or more languages, in addition to English. Through the establishment of this Seal of Biliteracy, the district seeks to:

- encourage pupils to develop biliteracy skills
- provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills
- revitalize and promote foreign language instruction in our schools
- recognize and honor rich and diverse language assets

The SEAL shall be awarded by the Superintendent to pupils who complete the requirements for a high school diploma and who demonstrate the state-determined level of proficiencies for Gold or Platinum Seal in English, as well as one or more additional languages, be they native languages, heritage languages, or languages learned in school or other settings.

Approved USD 435 - 2-12-18