



December 2018

Being able to know and use more than one language is a critical skill for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise recently announced that the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy is now available for Iowa schools, beginning with the Class of 2019, to recognize students who demonstrate proficiency in two or more world languages by high school graduation, and Pleasant Valley is proud to participate in this program!



### **The Seal of Biliteracy:**

- values world languages as an asset
- recognizes the value of language diversity & cultural identity
- prepares students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in the labor market and the global society
- provides employers, universities, and grant/scholarship providers with a method to recognize applicants for their dedication to attainment of Biliteracy

Students who can show proficiency in two or more languages will receive a seal on their transcripts. To receive a seal, students must demonstrate proficiency in English as well as one other language through approved assessments

### **What is Language Proficiency?**

The Seal of Biliteracy focuses not on “seat time” or completion of specific language courses; it relies on demonstrating proficiency in a given language.

The options to demonstrate English proficiency include meeting one of the following requirements:

- ACT Test – English score of 18+
- AP English Language or Literature score – 3+
- ELPA21 Test score – 4 or 5 in all domains

The options to demonstrate proficiency in a World Language include a variety of testing options, all of which will be administered by Pleasant Valley. We will be administering the World Language assessments every Spring for any interested Junior or Senior. The assessment used will depend upon the language in which a student is wishing to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to pay for their own test, and must be paid for prior to testing.

Specific details regarding the time and location of the World Language assessment testing will be announced in January. If your child is interested in this opportunity, they must fill out the following link indicating their interest in applying for the Seal of Biliteracy. We will use this list to make contact in January and announce testing dates and details.

**[Deadline to apply for the Seal of Biliteracy is Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.](#)**

More information can be found on the PVHS website. [Click here.](#)

Please contact Stephanie Risius ([risiusstephanie@pleasval.k12.ia.us](mailto:risiusstephanie@pleasval.k12.ia.us)) for more information.