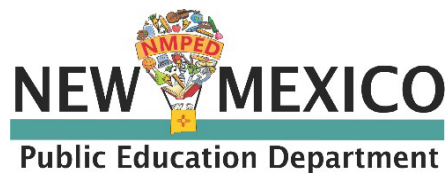




THE STATE SEAL OF BILINGUALISM-BILITERACY: A Capstone of Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Education

In the 21st century, the world economy is increasingly global and multicultural, which requires the workforce of the future to have linguistic and cultural competence. Thus, bilingualism and biliteracy enhance future employees' "human capital" (the measure of the economic value of a person's skill set) by providing linguistic and cross-cultural skills in the global job market (*Language Magazine, 2018*). For instance, between 2012 and 2017, the demand for bilingual workers in the United States more than doubled (*Not Lost In Translation, 2017*).

The State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy (SSBB) does not only prepare New Mexico students to be global citizens and meet local community needs but more importantly, honors New Mexico's heritage and the heritage languages of the State. The SSBB is the capstone of the culturally and linguistically responsive education that the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) envisions for NM Students.



The SSBB state regulation was published in September 2015; it set the adoption criteria for school districts and state charter schools to award the SSBB for their high school graduates. To earn the SSBB, students must meet the graduation requirements and demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English, through one of the following options: 1-language certification by an individual Tribe, 2-units of credit and an assessment, 3-units of credit and an alternative process portfolio; or 4-an assessment and an alternative process portfolio.

Across NM, more than 5000 high school graduates have received the State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy since 2015 in a wide variety of languages.

Since the State of New Mexico adopted the SSBB in 2015, 28 school districts and 10 state charter schools have made it part of their educational program. Since 2015, more than 5000 students have received a Diploma of Excellence with the SSBB. High school graduates have attained the State Seal in the following languages:

American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Keres, Korean, Latin, Navajo, Portuguese, Spanish, Somali, Tagalog, Telugu, Tewa, Tiwa, Turkish, Vietnamese and Zuni.

Reflecting on the data, districts and charter schools that awarded the SSBB have recognized their students for being fluent in a language other than English and importantly exemplified the practices of *culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and learning environments that validate, affirm, build and bridge their students' culture and language*. To ensure that all students are secure in their identity and holistically prepared for college, career and life, the Language and Culture Division at the NMPED will continue to emphasize the importance of the SSBB and provide guidance to districts and charter schools.

The data for the SSBB is periodically updated, please see the link below for the latest data. <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Bilingual-Seal-Award-Tracking.pdf>.

To receive more information about the SSBB adoption and implementation practices please review the non-regulatory guidance handbook at <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SSBB-TAM.pdf>.