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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members, Utah State Board of Education

**FROM:** Diana Suddreth, Director  
Teaching and Learning

**DATE:** October 6-7, 2016

**ACTION:** R277-499 *Seal of Biliteracy (New)*

### **Background:**

The Utah State School Board established in December 2015 a Seal of Biliteracy for a student who is proficient in English and one or more world languages on the student's high school transcript. A "Seal of Biliteracy" means a seal placed electronically on a student's high school transcript that indicates a student has achieved in English and in a world language a level of proficiency of Intermediate Mid-based on the Utah World Language Core Standards. A "world language" means a language other than English including: American Sign Language; a classical language (i.e. Latin); or an indigenous language (i.e. Navajo and Ute). R277-499 is proposed to establish the requirements and procedures for implementation of this program.

### **Board Strategic Plan:**

This item supports the following imperative and strategies in the Board's Strategic Plan:

- Oversight - Monitor, review, and provide general supervision to all public education institutions and other entities for which the State Board has responsibility.

### **Anticipated Action:**

It is proposed that the Standards and Assessment Committee consider approving R277-499 on first reading and, if approved by the Committee, the Board consider approving R277-499 on second reading.

**Contact:** Gregg Roberts, 801-538-7743  
Diana Suddreth, 801-538-7739

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-499. Seal of Biliteracy.**

3 **R277-499-1. Authority and Purpose.**

4 (1) This rule is authorized by:

5 (a) Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3, which vests general control and  
6 supervision over public education in the Board;

7 (b) Section 53A-1-401, which allows the Board to make rules to execute the  
8 Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law; and

9 (c) Section 53A-1-402(1)(b), which allows the Board to establish rules and  
10 minimum standards for graduation requirements.

11 (2) The purpose of this rule is to establish rules and procedures for a student  
12 to earn a Seal of Biliteracy in conjunction with a high school diploma.

13 **R277-499-2. Definitions.**

14 (1) “Intermediate-Mid” level means a level of language proficiency in terms of  
15 speaking, writing, listening, and reading in real-world situations in a spontaneous and  
16 non-rehearsed context, as established by the American Council on the Teaching of  
17 Foreign Languages or tribal education directors.

18 (2) “Seal of Biliteracy ” means a recognition, awarded in conjunction with a  
19 student’s high school diploma, which certifies that a student is proficient in English  
20 and at Intermediate-Mid level or higher in one or more world languages.

21 (3) “World language” means a language other than English and includes:

22 (a) American Sign Language;

23 (b) American Native Languages, such as Navajo or Ute; and

24 (c) classical languages, such as Latin.

25

26 **R277-499-3. Procedures for Award of Seal of Biliteracy.**

27 (1)(a) An LEA shall develop a local application process for a student who  
28 wishes to earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

29 (b) An LEA application process shall include procedures for:

30 (i) advertising the criteria for the Seal of Biliteracy;

31 (ii) tracking students who may qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy; and

- 32 (iii) documenting student progress.
- 33 (c) An LEA shall train counselors and world language coordinators to provide  
34 information on the application process to interested students.
- 35 (d) The Superintendent shall provide an application template which an LEA  
36 may use in the application process.
- 37 (2) An LEA shall award the Seal of Biliteracy to a student who:
- 38 (a) demonstrates proficiency in an English assessment; and  
39 (b) demonstrates a minimum of Intermediate Mid-level proficiency in a world  
40 language assessment.
- 41 (3)(a) The Superintendent shall maintain a list of acceptable national and  
42 international tests with qualifying scores to demonstrate proficiency as required by  
43 this rule.
- 44 (b) The Superintendent shall review and update the list provided by  
45 Subsection (3)(a) on a regular basis and publish the information on the Board's  
46 website.
- 47 (4) If a student meets the requirements of Subsection (2):
- 48 (a) the Superintendent shall place the Seal of Biliteracy electronically on the  
49 student's transcript; and
- 50 (b) an LEA may place a seal on the student's paper diploma.

51 **KEY: biliteracy, seal, world languages**

52 **Date of Enactment of Last Substantive Amendment: 2017**

53 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53A-1-401; 53A-**

54 **1-402(1)(b)**