

MEMORANDUM

TO: World Language District Coordinators
Multilingual District Coordinators
Power School District Administrators

FROM: Kristi D. Austin, PhD
Director, Office of Assessment and Standards

DATE: September 23, 2025

RE: SC Seal of Biliteracy Change in Requirements and Updated Guidelines

A new version of [South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy Overview and Guidelines](#) has been published with updated requirements and resources.

Updated Requirements:

1. To meet Qualification II (English Proficiency) the ACCESS composite score for Multilingual Learner students is now a 4.4 for *all three tiers*. There are no longer different ACCESS scores per tier.
2. To meet Qualification II (English Proficiency), d/Deaf students now have the option of demonstrating their English proficiency by earning “intermediate mid” or higher in reading and writing on an approved proficiency-based assessment.

For more information regarding Qualification II (English Proficiency) for Multilingual Learners and d/Deaf students please see page 4 of the SC Seal of Biliteracy guidelines.

New Resources:

Three new sections have been added to the 2025 guidelines.

- **How is a tier determined? (p.5)** Using a series of examples, this section explains how to determine a student’s proficiency level in a language other than English.
- **What are the steps to implementing the SC Seal of Biliteracy? (p. 9 to 11)** Here new districts will find step-by-step guidance on the implementation process.

- **Frequently Asked Questions (p.13 to 16)** This section provides answers to common questions relating to credentialing, scoring, testing, logistics, and funding.

If your District plans to participate this year, please complete the [Intent to Participate](#) form. District contacts identified on this form will receive all communications regarding the SC Seal of Biliteracy during the academic year.

For more information or if you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Dr. Rocío Zalba at rzalba@ed.sc.gov.