



Dear Students & Families,

In 2020, New Hampshire adopted a national award program to acknowledge students who have studied and developed proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The program is the NH Seal of Biliteracy. This award is part of a [national program](#) adopted by 49 other states across the country. Students who earn this distinction will receive a state seal on their high school diploma. In addition, documentation of this accomplishment will be included on final transcripts, a distinction that colleges, universities, and prospective employers value. Students will also be given an honors cord or medal to wear at graduation.

The New Hampshire Department of Education acknowledges the importance of being bilingual in today's global society. This award program highlights the hard work and achievement of NH's multilingual students, encouraging students to continue developing home languages and/or to learn new languages while enrolled in high school or home school programs. Multilingualism prepares students for post-secondary success. Many employers and institutions of higher education throughout the country recognize the Seal of Biliteracy. Some colleges and universities will offer world language credits to students who earn this distinction. Students are encouraged to check with prospective colleges and universities during the enrollment process to see if the institutions acknowledge the award. Globally, bilingualism equates to a higher pay rate and more career opportunities in the US and abroad.

To receive the NH Seal of Biliteracy award, students must meet the:

- Meet the graduation requirements set by their local high school
- Demonstrate proficiency in English
- Demonstrate proficiency in one (or more) additional world languages

Specific information can about the indicators of proficiency can be found in the student application. Additional information is also available on the NH Department of Education Seal of Biliteracy website.

If you have any questions about the NH Seal of Biliteracy, please email questions to: nhseal@nhawlt.org.

Sincerely,

NH State Seal of Biliteracy Committee