



SUSD Pathway to Biliteracy Awards

Language programs incorporate Pathway to Biliteracy awards to acknowledge and communicate the value of the nation's diversity in language assets and to encourage language learners to maintain and improve their first language while also acquiring proficiency in additional languages. These awards build upon strong research about the benefits of mastery of two or more languages for individual students, and the increasing awareness of the need in our communities, state, nation, and the world for people with biliteracy and cross-cultural skills. Biliteracy will benefit learners in the labor market and the global society while strengthening intergroup relationships and honoring the multiple cultures and languages in a community.

SUSD Pathway to Biliteracy Awards recognize significant steps towards developing biliteracy along a student's DLI trajectory from preschool into high school. These awards advance the district's commitment and Dual Language Immersion vision that every SUSD student graduate prepared and equipped with the knowledge and skills to participate successfully in college, career, and a diverse multilingual/multicultural world through participation in a well-articulated PreK-12 Dual Language Immersion program.

SUSD Elementary Pathway to Biliteracy Award

The SUSD Elementary Pathway to Biliteracy award honors SUSD Dual Language Immersion students who, by the end of 5th grade, have demonstrated a commitment to becoming biliterate and who have reached a certain degree of proficiency in both English and another language.

Eligible Students: 5th grade students enrolled in a Dual Language Immersion Program

Requirements:

- Score "Proficient" or above by fifth grade on the Arizona Standards Test in English Language Arts;
- Meet the 5th grade STAMP4Se proficiency targets in Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking (targets vary based on language of instruction.)
- Submit a completed portfolio showcasing the benefits and importance of biliteracy (portfolio requirements defined by each site. May include things such as a description of a cultural event the student participated in or learned about, an essay or presentation in both languages about the benefits of knowing two languages, personal goals for continued language study in middle and high school.)

SUSD Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award

The SUSD Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award recognizes engagement and success in the pursuit of language skills in two or more languages, affirms positive attitudes toward multilingualism, and validates the study of multiple languages and cultures for all students. This award is designed to set a high level of biliteracy attainment for students who have been in a dual language immersion program through 8th grade.



Additionally, it encourages students to continue an increasingly challenging course of language study in high school and beyond.

Eligible Students: 8th grade students enrolled in a Dual Language Immersion Program

Requirements:

- A score of Proficient or Advanced on the ELA section of the Arizona Academic Standards Test (7th grade);
- Meets or exceeds 8th grade STAMP4S proficiency targets in Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking.

To receive the Middle School Pathway to Biliteracy Award, students must also submit a portfolio that includes evidence of personal growth toward the pursuit of biliteracy and development of the knowledge and skills attractive to future employers and college admissions offices. Specific portfolio requirements will be defined by each site. Portfolio activities may include:

- A written and/or oral presentation on why bilingualism is important to them personally, to their community, and to the world; **OR** a written and oral presentation about five careers where biliteracy is important and why and how biliteracy is a benefit in those careers;
- Investigations that describe similarities and differences in practices, products, and perspectives used across cultures (e.g., holidays, family life, historical and contemporary figures) to understand one's own and others' ways of thinking.
- A written reflection on how participation in cultural events or cultural investigations contributes to their pursuit and interest in biliteracy;
- A reflection on participation in the DLI program and student's experience with the target culture and language including goals for future language study and use in high school and beyond.

Arizona Seal of Biliteracy Award – High School



Students who continue a challenging language pathway in high school may earn the **Arizona Seal of Biliteracy** upon graduation in 12th grade. The Arizona Seal of Biliteracy was adopted by the state legislature in 2016 and recognizes high school students who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English. The Arizona Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to 12th grade students at graduation. The award includes a seal that is placed on the diploma and is noted on the transcript. Recipients will also be recognized during graduation and other senior award ceremonies.

SUSD is proud to offer the Arizona Seal of Biliteracy to inspire students to pursue proficiency in multiple languages, honor students who excel in language skills, and provide evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices.