



# Nebraska Department of Education

500 S 84<sup>th</sup> St. Second Floor ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska ♦ 68510

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy (NSoBL)

### 1. What is the Nebraska Seal of biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by the State of Nebraska in recognition of high school students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.

### 2. Why should I apply for the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy can be reflected on a student's high school transcript. It is the school district's responsibility to make the decision. The Seal honors students' bilingual proficiency and serves as evidence of skills attractive to future employers and college admissions offices nationwide. A list of Universities and Colleges in Illinois and Missouri that acknowledge the Seal of Biliteracy (Including the NeSoBL) is [here](#).

The University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), the University of Nebraska-Kearney (UNK), Doane University, and Wayne State College have endorsed the NeSoBL. They attached credits to the NeSoBL [on different conditions](#).

[Easyway International LLC](#) and Heartland Stell have endorsed the seal. There are six non-profit organizations that have endorsed the NeSoBL, including Shaanxi Commerce Representative Office, the Midwest U.S. Commerce Representative Office of Weinan City, Nebraska Chinese Association, Lincoln Chinese Culture Association, Nebraska Language Initiatives, and the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain.

If your business and organizations want to endorse the NeSoBL, please contact Dr. Chrystal Liu at [chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov](mailto:chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov)

### 3. Who Should Apply?

Any multilingual high school student who can demonstrate proficiency in English and at least one language other than English.

### 4. How frequently can students apply?



There are three rounds of applications each year. The application deadlines are April 1st, August 1st, and November 1st.

#### **5. How to apply?**

Students should study the language and obtain the required proficiency level before completing the application. The application is available online through the World Language Pages on the [NDE website](#).

#### **6. What are the proficiency levels for the NSoBL?**

NSoBL has two levels: the gold and the silver levels. The gold level is awarded to students with an intermediate-high level of proficiencies in two or more languages. The silver level is awarded to students with an intermediate-low level of proficiencies in two or more languages. For more details, please check this [webpage](#).

#### **7. Why districts and schools should support students in applying the seal?**

Districts can adopt the seal so that the seal is recognized on the transcript. The NeSoBL is acknowledged in many other states. Many universities and colleges in Illinois and Missouri have attached retroactive credits to the seal, which means that students with the seal get retrospective credits for the novice level courses for the seal free of charge – without paying for the courses.

#### **8. What should this look like on a transcript? Is there an actual GIF or JPEG or similar graphic that is to be included? Or will this just look like a block of text mentioning any seals for the student?**

We provide a seal (see the pictures at the end of this document) that can be attached to students' diplomas. Students will also get a confirmation email claiming they are awarded the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy (NSoBL).

#### **9. How many biliteracy seals can one student attain?**

Students can attain the seal for each language in which proficiency is demonstrated. There is no limit to the number of languages that can be endorsed.

#### **10. Do we need to store the assessment used in determining proficiency?**

Schools or districts do not need to store assessments to be used in determining proficiency. There is a list of approved national assessments with the required score for the seal on this website:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy-proficiency-levels/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy-assessment-requirements/>



### 11. Do schools need to show proficiency levels (silver, gold) on the transcript?

No, the proficiency level is measured with the required assessment score. Schools do need to provide official transcripts for students using the 30 credit hours in their application. For more details, please check this [webpage](#).

### 12. Are all districts qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy?

All schools, public and private, may choose to adopt the Seal of Biliteracy through their established policy process. However, students may also apply for the seal without district recognition. The application process was meant to enable students who were, for any reason, unable to apply with the assistance of the school.

### 13. Can a student qualify if English is a second language?

English learners are encouraged to apply for the seal. They will have to demonstrate proficiency in the native language as well as English. It is beneficial for students to have instruction, access to materials, and resources in their native language for this purpose.

For more information, please visit this website:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy/>

You can find a flyer about the NeSoBL here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/151S\\_Qe8IXkvtaHrwxZdv1YHGcfhOJuod/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/151S_Qe8IXkvtaHrwxZdv1YHGcfhOJuod/view?usp=sharing)

