

**PUSD Biliteracy Award for Elementary and Middle School Students**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Is my student required to complete the Biliteracy Award portfolio?**

- a. No, the Biliteracy Award is an optional endeavor that students and families may choose to engage in to earn an additional distinction at promotion from 5th and 8th grades.
- b. The elementary and middle school Biliteracy Awards are *not* prerequisite requirements to earn the State Seal of Biliteracy in high school.

**2. How do teachers support student completion of Biliteracy Award Criteria?**

- a. Beginning in the 4th and 8th grades, teachers will introduce the Biliteracy Award criteria.
- b. Throughout 4th and 5th grades for elementary and 8th grade for middle school, teachers will support students in developing the skills necessary to successfully complete the portfolio criteria; however students would need to devote time outside of school hours to complete portfolio activities.
- c. Teachers may provide some time during class for students to work on portfolio components; however students would need to devote time outside of school hours to complete portfolio activities.

**3. How can parents support student completion of Biliteracy Award Criteria?**

- a. Parents can support students by:
  - i. Helping your child manage time and organizational skills such as establishing a schedule for completing requirements
  - ii. Establishing a comfortable workspace with limited distractions for reading and writing projects
  - iii. Providing guidance without doing the work or completing projects for your child
  - iv. Providing direction and encouragement
  - v. Maintaining ongoing dialogue with teachers to stay aware of your child's progress
  - vi. Encouraging your child to reach out to a teacher with any questions or concerns
  - vii. Accompanying your child to community service activities and/or cultural events

**4. Do the award criteria measure whether a child is achieving at grade level?**

- a. The Biliteracy Award criteria aims to recognize accomplishment in bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural competencies, which includes activities beyond grade-level assignments.
- b. Assessment scores are not the only indicator of a students' progress toward language acquisition. Parents/guardians should maintain regular communication with a child's teacher/s to stay aware of academic progress, for support in interpreting your test scores or grades, and/or to discuss any concerns about their child's language development.

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**5. What are the benchmark reading levels?**

<b>4th Grade</b>	<b>Target Language</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Spanish and French DLIP</b>	Level N-O or Above* or Level 30-34 or Above**	Level N-R or Above* Level 30-40 or Above**
<b>Mandarin DLIP</b>	Level E-F or Above^	Level L-N or Above*

<b>5th Grade</b>	<b>Target Language</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Spanish and French DLIP</b>	Level O-T or Above* Level 34-50 or Above**	Level Q-U or Above* Level 40-60 or Above**
<b>Mandarin DLIP</b>	Level F-G or Above^	Level N-P or Above*

<b>8th Grade</b>	<b>Target Language</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Spanish and French DLIP</b>	Level Z or Above* Level 80 or Above**	1010L to 1185L or Above***
<b>Mandarin DLIP</b>	Level J-K or Above^	1010L to 1185L or Above***

\*Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (BAS)

\*\*Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)

\*\*\*Lexile Reading Level

^Level Chinese Mastery Track

Note: Benchmark reading levels for French and Mandarin DLIP are currently being reviewed and are subject to change.

**6. What are the language proficiency targets for item 2?**

- a. Language proficiency targets vary by program:
  - i. [Spanish](#)
  - ii. [Mandarin](#)
  - iii. [French](#)

**7. What opportunities are available for community service?**

- a. [Community Service Opportunities](#)

**8. Should parents share the Biliteracy Award criteria with their younger children?**

- a. Students are encouraged to pursue a love of reading and community service opportunities at any age; however only activities in 4th and 5th grades (elementary) and 8th grade (middle school) are counted toward the Biliteracy Award.

**9. What do students receive who achieve the Biliteracy Award requirements?**

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- a. Students earn a Certificate of Achievement, awarded by the school site, in recognition of their efforts to be awarded at the end of the student's 5th or 8th grade school year.

**10. Are the high school assessments in the target language?**

- a. High School Biliteracy Award criteria are established by the State of California. Target language assessment options include a World Language AP exam, an International Baccalaureate exam, SAT II world language exam, or a district level exam that assess speaking, reading and writing passing at a proficient level or higher.
- b. [High School Biliteracy Award Criteria](#)

**11. Can we add to the high school biliteracy award to include internships, college-level classes, or IB classes?**

- a. High School Biliteracy Award criteria are established by the State of California. However, students are encouraged to engage in coursework and activities that contribute to a well-rounded biliterate, bilingual and bicultural experience.

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**Biliteracy Award Service Hours Tracking Sheet**

<b>Date</b> 日期 Date Fecha	<b>Start Time</b> 开始时间 Heure de début Hora de inicio	<b>End Time</b> 结束时间 Heure de fin Hora de finalización	<b>Minutes</b> 分钟 Minutes Minutos	<b>Activity (What did you do?)</b> 活动 (你做了什么?) Activité (Qu'avez-vous fait?) Actividad (¿Qué hiciste?)	<b>Adult Supervisor Signature</b> 负责人签名 Signature du gérant Firma de supervisor adulto
		<b>Total Minutes:</b> 总分钟数 <b>Total des minutes:</b> <b>Minutos totales:</b>			

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**Elementary Biliteracy Award Reading Log**

	<b>Date</b> 日期 Date Fecha	<b>Book Title</b> 书名 Titre du livre Titulo del libro	<b>Language of Book</b> 书的语言 Langue du livre Idioma del libro	<b>Reading Level of Book</b> 读书水平 Niveau de lecture du livre Nivel de lectura del libro	<b>Adult Supervisor Signature</b> 负责人名 Signature du surveillant Firma de supervisor adulto
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