CT COLT Seal of Biliteracy FAQs

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?
Click here to view the national website, here to view the guidelines for the state of CT, or visit the CT COLT website. You can also share this flyer with eligibility criteria within your school and community.

Which Test?
Many districts are deciding which test to use for assessing student proficiency. You can access the CT list of approved test options here, on page 5 of this document. STAMP and AAPPL are two of the options, both are good measures of student proficiency, are affordable ($20 or less), and are composed of the four separate tests. Both tests report interpretive reading and listening upon completion of the tests and presentational writing and interpersonal speaking within 10 days.

How to Test Low-Incidence Languages?
Many districts are now looking at how to measure proficiency in the low-incidence languages. Districts should reference the Connecticut State Guidelines for the Seal of Biliteracy and refer to the eligibility information on page 5. For additional tests, please look to ALTA Language Testing as they have many of the low-incidence languages not currently assessed by AAPPL or STAMP.   ALTA has over 100 languages from Urdu, to Polish, to Apache.
 https://www.altalang.com/language-testing/languages/

How Should Our District Begin Preparations?
Choosing a test is the first step. Once the district has made that decision, it is important to have teachers in the department participate in a demo of the test to understand the timing, the types of questions and all the associated technology required. Then, it is extremely helpful for the students to do the demo to reduce test anxiety and help them to pace themselves with the timing. Many more suggestions about testing and the timeline can be found in the two webinars on
http://www.ctcolt.org/pages/sealofbiliteracy.asp.

When should we test?
It is advantageous to schedule the testing of juniors in March or April of their junior year. That way, if they wish to retest right away in late September, they have time to receive their results before sending in college applications. Students who are on-track to graduate may tell colleges that they are "Seal of Biliteracy-eligible" or "anticipated" on their applications. Also keep in mind that AP scores will only be useful for awarding the Seal if the enrolled students are juniors. Seniors enrolled in AP courses will not have their scores in time to qualify them for the Seal.

When do the tests get refreshed each year?
When planning for testing or retesting using AAPPL or STAMP, it is important do do the demo so that students have a sense of the questions they will face. Every year LTI Testing refreshes their AAPPL tasks in mid-March. However, Avant provides new tasks the last week of December.

Can a student earn the Seal of Biliteracy in more than one language?
Yes! If the student demonstrates Intermediate mid or higher using the external assessments listed in the CT Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines, a student can add the Seal for multiple languages. Guidance will be instrumental in determining how to add the Seal of Biliteracy to the transcripts denoting Seal of Biliteracy Spanish, Urdu, German, etc. The student information system will require a different number for each language, just as it requires numbers for each course.

What if Students Need to Take a Retest for a Section of Test?
Districts should not administer retests for two months after the original test date. The test questions and prompts are changed each year. When districts report that students are at Intermediate Mid, it is in our best interest to have that based on accurate student performance data.

How Can our District Inform Parents About Seal & Testing?
Here is a link to the Parent letter that CT COLT created for members. Feel free to make a copy and revise it to meet your district needs.

How Can our District Purchase the CT Seal of Biliteracy for Diplomas?
Using the Seal designed by the CT SDOE, COLT has purchased the physical Seal for districts to order. The seal measures 1" high by 1.25" wide. All students in the state of CT will have the same Seal awarded and they will be mailed to the district upon receipt of the spreadsheet (see below for more information) with the names and scores of all students who qualify. The Seal will cost $1 per student (plus $2 flat rate shipping fee). Payments can be made online at CT COLT or with a check.

How Do We Prove Students are Eligible for Seal?
A district coordinator or teacher will complete a Google Form on the CT COLT website with an Excel spreadsheet sharing the name of the district, names of the students, the scores on all 4 tests and dates of administration. Each Seal will cost $1 and will be shipped to the teacher/coordinator submitting all names. Please allow two weeks for shipping. Payments can be made at www.ctcolt.org and spreadsheets will be attached to the Google Form above.

If you need further assistance, please look at our resources on the CT COLT website or contact:
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