

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 6424**

63rd Legislature  
2014 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 10, 2014  
YEAS 49 NAYS 0

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 6, 2014  
YEAS 69 NAYS 27

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 6424** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE BILL 6424**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2014 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2014 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Roach, McAuliffe, Litzow, Fain, Bailey, Mullet, Hasegawa,  
and Tom

Read first time 01/24/14. Referred to Committee on Early Learning &  
K-12 Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to establishing a state seal of biliteracy for high  
2 school students; amending RCW 28A.230.125; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6            (a) The study of world languages in elementary and secondary  
7 schools should be encouraged because it contributes to students'  
8 cognitive development and to the national economy and security;

9            (b) Proficiency in multiple languages enables Washington to  
10 participate more effectively in the current global political, social,  
11 and economic context;

12            (c) The benefits to employers of having employees who are fluent in  
13 more than one language are clear: Increased access to expanding  
14 markets, better service of customers' needs, and expanded trading  
15 opportunities with other countries; and

16            (d) Protecting the state's rich heritage of multiple cultures and  
17 languages, as well as building trust and understanding across the  
18 multiple cultures and languages of diverse communities, requires  
19 multilingual communication skills.

1 (2) Therefore, the legislature's intent is to promote and recognize  
2 linguistic proficiency and cultural literacy in one or more world  
3 languages in addition to English through the establishment of a  
4 Washington state seal of biliteracy.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The Washington state seal of biliteracy is established to  
8 recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level  
9 of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more world  
10 languages in addition to English. School districts are encouraged to  
11 award the seal of biliteracy to graduating high school students who  
12 meet the criteria established by the office of the superintendent of  
13 public instruction under this section. Participating school districts  
14 shall place a notation on a student's high school diploma and high  
15 school transcript indicating that the student has earned the seal.

16 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
17 adopt rules establishing criteria for award of the Washington state  
18 seal of biliteracy. The criteria must require a student to demonstrate  
19 proficiency in English by meeting state high school graduation  
20 requirements in English, including through state assessments and  
21 credits, and proficiency in one or more world languages other than  
22 English. The criteria must permit a student to demonstrate proficiency  
23 in another world language through multiple methods including nationally  
24 or internationally recognized language proficiency tests and  
25 competency-based world language credits awarded under the model policy  
26 adopted by the Washington state school directors' association.

27 (3) For the purposes of this section, a world language other than  
28 English must include American sign language and Native American  
29 languages.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.125 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 130 are each  
31 amended to read as follows:

32 (1) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with  
33 the four-year institutions as defined in RCW 28B.76.020, the state  
34 board for community and technical colleges, and the workforce training  
35 and education coordinating board, shall develop for use by all public  
36 school districts a standardized high school transcript. The

1 superintendent shall establish clear definitions for the terms  
2 "credits" and "hours" so that school programs operating on the quarter,  
3 semester, or trimester system can be compared.

4 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include a  
5 notation of whether the student has earned a certificate of individual  
6 achievement or a certificate of academic achievement.

7 (3) The standardized high school transcript may include a notation  
8 of whether the student has earned the Washington state seal of  
9 biliteracy established under section 2 of this act.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** By December 1, 2017, the office of the  
11 superintendent of public instruction shall submit a report to the  
12 education committees of the legislature that compares the number of  
13 students awarded the Washington state seal of biliteracy in the  
14 previous two school years and the languages spoken by those students,  
15 to the number of students enrolled or previously enrolled in the  
16 transitional bilingual instruction program and the languages spoken by  
17 those students. The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
18 shall also report the methods used by students to demonstrate  
19 proficiency for the Washington state seal of biliteracy, and describe  
20 how the office of the superintendent of public instruction plans to  
21 increase the number of possible methods for students to demonstrate  
22 proficiency, particularly in world languages that are not widely  
23 spoken.

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