

1 HB407
2 209411-2
3 By Representatives Collins, Ledbetter, Nordgren, Brown (K),
4 Shedd, Ellis, Hall, Baker, Warren, Drummond, Meadows,
5 Faulkner, Wilcox and Garrett
6 RFD: Education Policy
7 First Read: 11-FEB-21

1 (4) To provide institutions of higher education with
2 a method to recognize and give academic credit to applicants
3 seeking admission.

4 (5) To prepare students with 21st century skills.

5 (6) To recognize and promote world language
6 instruction in public schools.

7 (7) To strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm
8 the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and
9 languages of a community.

10 Section 2. The State Seal of Biliteracy certifies
11 attainment of an intermediate level of proficiency by a
12 graduating student in English and at least one other world
13 language, and certifies that the graduate meets all of the
14 following criteria:

15 (1) Completion of the graduation requirements of the
16 high school.

17 (2) English language proficiency: The student shall
18 demonstrate proficiency in the English language, through one
19 of the following approaches, or as provided by any future
20 equivalent national normed benchmark approved as part of the
21 program:

22 a. ACT English: A score of 18 or higher.

23 b. ACT reading: A score of 20 or higher.

24 c. Advanced Placement ~~English~~ Language Examination:
25 A score of three or higher.

26 d. International Baccalaureate Examination: A score
27 of five or higher.

1 e. WIDA ACCESS 2.0: For non native English speakers,
2 the student shall meet and maintain Alabama exit criteria in
3 English proficiency.

4 f. American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language
5 Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages: For
6 non native English speakers, an intermediate Mid-3 or higher
7 score in English.

8 (3) World language proficiency: The student shall
9 demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than
10 English through one of the following approaches:

11 a. If the language other than English may be
12 assessed by a standardized examination, students shall attain
13 the minimum score on one of the following assessments:

14 1. The Advanced Placement ~~English~~ Language
15 Examination: A score of three or higher.

16 2. American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language
17 Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages: An
18 Intermediate Mid-3 or higher score in all four components.

19 3. International Baccalaureate Examination with a
20 score of four or higher.

21 4. Common European Framework of Reference: A score
22 of level B1 or higher.

23 5. Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency: A
24 score of intermediate-mid level or higher.

25 6. American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language
26 Oral Proficiency Interview Writing Proficiency Test: A score
27 of intermediate-mid level.

1 7. American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language
2 Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment: A score of
3 intermediate-mid level three or higher.

4 8. Sign Language: Sign Language Proficiency
5 Interview, American Sign Language Proficiency Interview, or
6 Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages: A
7 score of intermediate plus on the Sign Language Proficiency
8 Interview, level three on the American Sign Language
9 Proficiency Interview, or score of intermediate Mid-3.

10 b. If the language other than English is not able to
11 be assessed by a standardized examination, one of the
12 following criteria shall be met:

13 1. The school district shall certify to the State
14 Superintendent of Education that a school district language
15 examination meets the rigor at the intermediate-mid level of
16 language proficiency according to the guidelines of the
17 American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages. To that
18 end, the assessment of a language other than English shall
19 assess listening, speaking, reading, and writing at a level of
20 intermediate-mid proficiency or higher. The assessment should
21 be similar to the American Council of Teachers of Foreign
22 Languages Oral Proficiency Interview Writing Proficiency Test
23 and should require collaboration with community members who
24 are native speakers or near native speakers in that language.
25 This assessment should be similar to the process used in other
26 states for assessing proficiency in tribal languages.

1 2. Notwithstanding subparagraph 1., a student who
2 seeks to qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy through a
3 language that is not characterized by listening, speaking,
4 reading, and writing, or for which there is no written system,
5 shall pass an assessment on the modalities that characterize
6 communication in that language at the corresponding
7 intermediate proficient level or higher.

8 c. If neither paragraph a. nor paragraph b. are able
9 to be implemented, or if new language assessments become
10 available, one of the following approaches may be followed:

11 1. The State Superintendent of Education may provide
12 a listing of equivalent language assessments that school
13 districts may use.

14 2. A school district may provide the State
15 Superintendent of Education with a list of equivalent language
16 assessments that the school district proposes to use in place
17 of those listed in this section. The State Superintendent of
18 Education may use lists received from school districts in
19 developing a state list of equivalent language assessments.

20 Section 3. The State Department of Education shall
21 do both of the following:

22 (1) Prepare and deliver to participating school
23 districts an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma
24 or transcript of the student indicating that the student has
25 been awarded a State Seal of Biliteracy by the State
26 Department of Education.

1 (2) Provide other information it deems necessary for
2 school districts to successfully participate in the program.

3 Section 4. A school district that participates in
4 the program under this act shall do both of the following:

5 (1) Maintain appropriate records in order to
6 identify students who have earned a State Seal of Biliteracy.

7 (2) Affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma
8 and transcript of each student who earns a State Seal of
9 Biliteracy.

10 Section 5. It is the intent of the Legislature that
11 no fee be charged to a student pursuant to this act.

12 Section 6. This act shall become effective on the
13 first day of the third month following its passage and
14 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives committee on Education Policy
..... 11-FEB-21

Read for the second time and placed
on the calendar..... 24-FEB-21

Read for the third time and passed
as amended..... 09-MAR-21

Yeas 101, Nays 0, Abstains 0

Jeff Woodard
Clerk