

February 2019

Dear SMUSD Seniors:

This letter is to notify you of an exciting opportunity in our district. Last year the SMUSD Governing Board adopted the California State Seal of Biliteracy to be awarded to our high school seniors. The State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB) provides recognition to high school students who are fluent in two or more languages. We began awarding the SSB in the 2017/2018 school year. In order for students to be considered candidates for the SSB, they must meet the criteria outlined below. When the criteria has been met, you may apply for the award. Once verified, the SSB insignia will be placed on your diploma and noted on your transcript.

1. Completion of four years English Language Arts coursework with an overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above in those classes.
2. Demonstrate proficiency through a score of “standard met” or higher on the English portion of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment (SBAC) administered in grade 11, or at the achievement level determined by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for any successor test.
3. Proficiency in one or more Languages Other Than English through one of the following:
  - a. Pass an additional language Advanced Placement examination with a score of 3 or higher; **OR**
  - b. Pass an additional language SAT II examination with a score of 600 or higher; **OR**
  - c. Complete a four-year high school course of study in a world language with attainment of an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above in that course of study, and oral proficiency in the language comparable to that required to pass an AP or IB examination; **OR**
  - d. Complete the equivalent of a four-year course of study in a world language at the community college or university level with an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above in that course of study, and oral proficiency in the language comparable to that required to pass an AP or IB examination.

If you are currently identified as an English Language Learner (ELL), in addition to the above criteria you must:

1. Demonstrate “well developed” oral and written skills in English by attaining the Early Advanced or Advanced proficiency level overall on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) or attain a level demonstrating English language proficiency on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) or any successor English language proficiency assessment.

Applications for this recognition can be obtained from your counselor at school. The school will not identify students who qualify for this award, thus you will be responsible for applying for the SBB and submitting required paperwork and forms by the deadline of **March 29, 2019**. If you have further questions please review the “Frequently Asked Questions” document or contact your counselor or world language teacher. We hope that you’ll consider applying for the special recognition!

Sincerely,

Tiffany Campbell  
Director, Secondary Education