

Implementing biliteracy seals to strengthen bilingual education and support cultural awareness

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Welcome, event orientation, and speaker introductions

Brenda Arellano, Southwest English Learners Research Partnership facilitator, REL Southwest

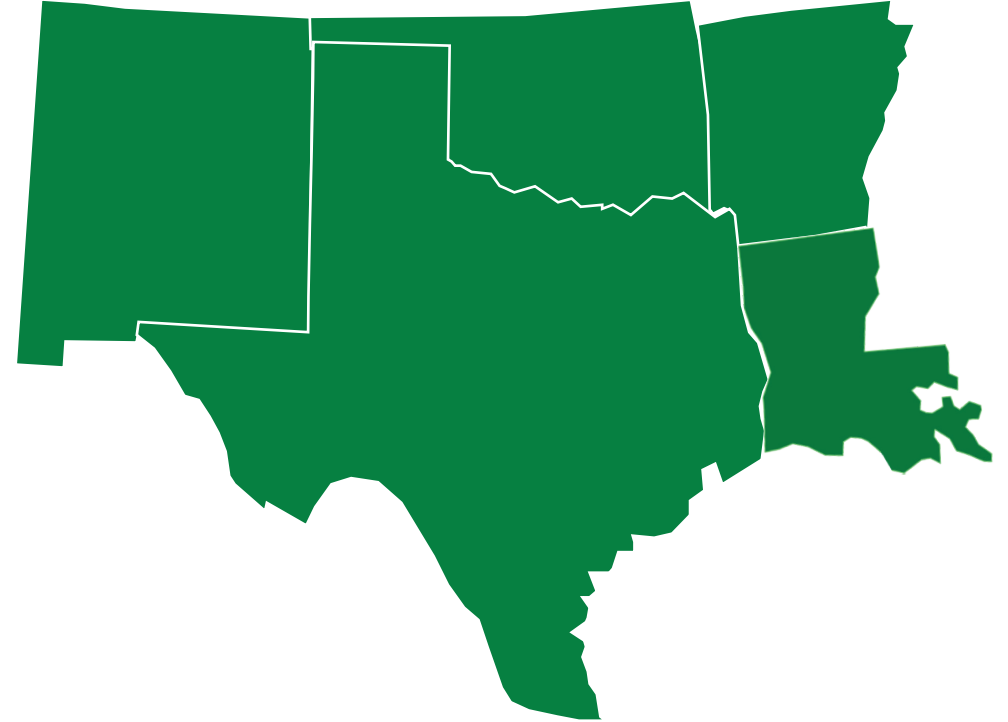
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How does REL Southwest do this work?

REL Southwest works with state education agencies, districts, and other stakeholders to develop and apply research evidence to **meaningfully improve student outcomes.**

REL Southwest supports **six** collaborative research partnerships to address the regional needs, priorities, and interests of five states: **Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.**



Webinar outcomes

- Understand how seals of biliteracy recognize and uplift student bilingualism.
- Learn about biliteracy seal programs and how they are being implemented across the U.S.
- Consider insights, ideas, and implications for implementing biliteracy seals from state and district stakeholders.

Agenda

- Bilingual education and biliteracy seal implementation
- REL Southwest's biliteracy seal work in New Mexico
- New Mexico's State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy
- Implementation panel discussion

Meet the presenters



Samuel Aguirre

*Director, WIDA Español
and Assistant Director of Consortium Relations,
WIDA*



Brenda Arellano, Ph.D.

*Senior Researcher,
American Institutes for Research*



Kadriye El-Atwani, Ph.D.

*Multicultural Education Specialist,
New Mexico Public Education Department*

Meet the presenters



Tracey Cordero

*Director,
Indigenous Montessori Institute,
Keres Children's Learning Center*



Jessica Villalobos

*Senior director,
Department of Language and
Cultural Equity
Albuquerque Public Schools*



Santi Gutierrez

*Bilingual Multicultural Education Coordinator,
Clovis Municipal Schools*

Bilingual education and biliteracy seal implementation

May 5, 2021

Samuel Aguirre

Director of WIDA Español/Assistant Director of Consortium Relations, WIDA

A brief history of the seal of biliteracy



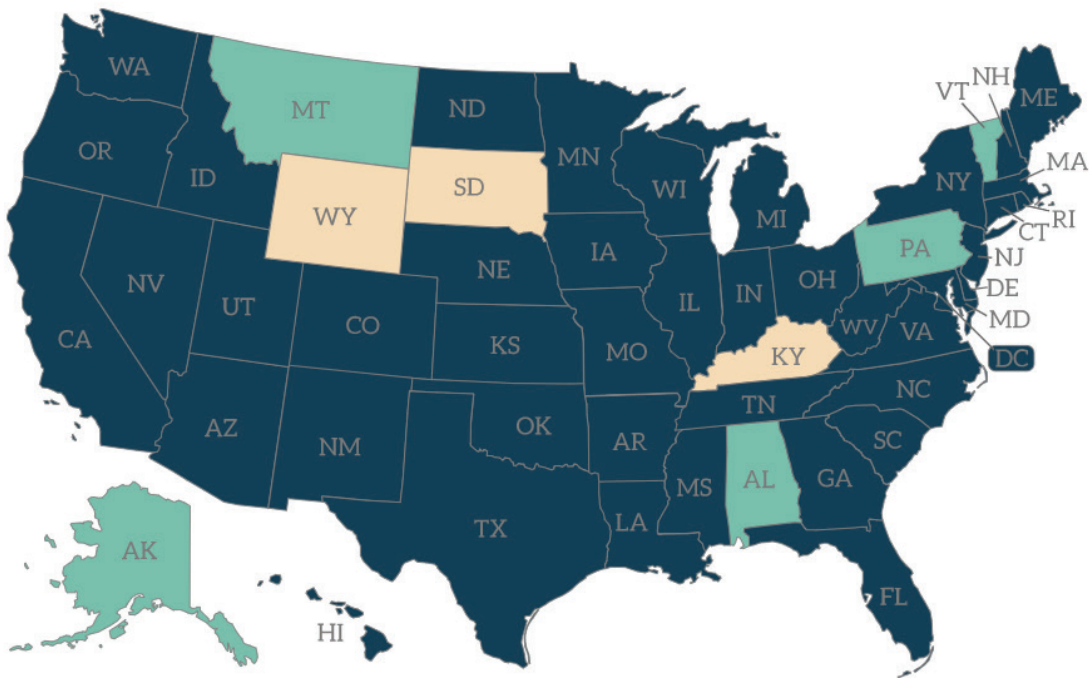
The seal of biliteracy

California initiated its Seal of Biliteracy in 2008 to celebrate the linguistic identities of English learner students and former English learner students, as well as accomplish the following:

- Highlight linguistic assets.
- Elevate the value of bi/multilingualism.
- Strengthen bilingual education programs.
- Prepare students for success in college and careers.

The seal of biliteracy

● Approved State Seal ● Under Consideration ● Early Stages ● No Seal of Biliteracy, Yet!



- Began in a grass-roots movement from schools to district offices and state agencies.
- Educator and parent communities are involved.
- Currently, **42 states plus Washington, D.C., award a seal of biliteracy.**
- Today, all remaining states are working toward adopting the award.

Diversity among biliteracy seals

- Each state (and local school district) sets its own criteria for awarding biliteracy seals.
- Most states provide documented recognition on the student's high school diploma.
- Employers and universities familiar with biliteracy seals provide enhanced opportunities and funding to seal recipients.
- As the award expands across states, new opportunities arise for national policy.

Goals and data of the seal of biliteracy



Goals

- Elevate students' home languages.
- Promote bi/multilingualism (global citizens).
- Recognize high school graduating students' bi/multilingual proficiencies.
- Provide a means by which employers and colleges and universities may recognize students' language skills.

Seal of biliteracy awards (2018/19 school year)

- 108,199 state seal of biliteracy recipients in U.S.
 - 31 states (9 states and Washington, D.C.. did not participate).
- **New Mexico**
 - 878 awards.
 - 421 recipients among English learner students and former English learner students.
 - 15 languages other than English represented.

Black, Chou & Hancock (2020)



Implementing the biliteracy seal through bilingual education



Bilingual education initiatives

For students to receive the biliteracy seal at the completion of high school, supports are needed in K-12 education, such as the following:

- Dual-language bilingual education.
- Other models to sustain bilingual education.
- Heritage and world language programs.

Benefits of the biliteracy seal

- Schools celebrate students' languages.
- Students and families are encouraged to retain and expand their languages (culture and traditions).
- Student identity is strengthened.
- Students can leverage their linguistic assets for opportunities in college and careers.