



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
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July 26, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons  
Renaissance School Project Lead Persons  
High School Principals and Supervisors  
School Counselors  
Bilingual/ESL/ELS Supervisors  
World Languages Supervisors

FROM: Karen L. Campbell, Director  
Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

Kimberley Harrington  
Assistant Commissioner/Chief Academic Officer  
Division of Teaching and Learning

SUBJECT: State Seal of Biliteracy Legislation

On January 19, 2016, Governor Christie signed Bill A4415, establishing a State Seal of Biliteracy for high school students who demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English. The legislation directs the Commissioner of Education to “prepare and deliver, to participating school districts, a certificate to be awarded to each biliterate student,” and to affix an appropriate insignia to the student’s transcript indicating that he or she has been awarded the State Seal of Biliteracy. The full text of the legislation is online at: [http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2014/Bills/PL15/303\\_.HTM](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2014/Bills/PL15/303_.HTM).

The New Jersey Department of Education is in the process of developing criteria to designate students as biliterate and expects to implement the criteria for the 2016-17 school year. Students who participate in the biliteracy initiative will have the opportunity to meet the criteria in English and in world language(s).

As information becomes available, the Department will post it on the following web pages:

- <http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/>
- <http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/wl/>

In the interim, please direct questions to the Bilingual/ESL Bureau in the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at [lep@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:lep@doe.state.nj.us) or to the World Languages Coordinator in the Division of Teaching and Learning at [worldlang@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:worldlang@doe.state.nj.us).

KLC/KH/LORI/

c: Members, State Board of Education  
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