

**Assembly Bill 370**  
**Biliteracy Inclusion Act - Updated Criteria**  
Assemblywoman Dawn Addis

**SUMMARY**

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AB 370 updates that criteria required to obtain the State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB) in order to make it equitable for all students to obtain, while creating a clear path for all participating Local Educational Agencies to implement.

**BACKGROUND**

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The SSB is marked by a gold seal on the diploma or transcript, effective since January 1, 2012, and recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. California was the first state to implement the SSB, and since then, 49 states and Washington, D.C. have followed California's lead and adopted their own version of the SSB. This allows students to show their proficiency in another language, places value in home languages, and creates an opportunity for bilingual students to be proud of their multilingual proficiency.

Since the 10 years of its implementation and lessons learned from the field and other states' implementation of the SSB, we have seen best practices and room for improvement.

**PROBLEM**

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The problem with the current requirements is the lack of flexibility, which might leave many students without the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in English and a second language. For instance, a student who is unable to take the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessment in 11th grade or has a bad testing day, would be ineligible to receive the SSB since currently, it is one of the two requirements under the English proficiency portion without an option for substitution. Whereas to demonstrate proficiency in the second language, there are five different options. There is a need to modify the criteria so meeting the requirements in English and second languages are comparable.

**SOLUTION**

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AB 370 will allow us to update the criteria for the State Seal of Biliteracy. Specifically, this bill will:

- Expand the options for students to show proficiency in English.
- Remove irrelevant testing criteria from the world language options.

With the menu of rigorous options to demonstrate English proficiency that is comparable to the current options available to demonstrate proficiency in the second language, we are creating a clear path towards the SSB.

**SUPPORT**

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Californians Together (Sponsor)  
California Association for Bilingual Education (Co-Sponsor)

**CONTACT**

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