

Senate Engrossed

~~CTEDs; district governing boards; elections.~~  
(now: state seal of biliteracy; assessment)

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2021

**CHAPTER 147**  
**SENATE BILL 1404**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-258, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-258, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-258. State seal of biliteracy program; requirements;  
5 diploma; program termination

6 A. The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a state  
7 seal of biliteracy program to recognize students who graduate from a  
8 school operated by a school district or a charter school located in this  
9 state and who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more  
10 languages in addition to English.

11 B. The superintendent of public instruction shall:

12 1. Create a state seal of biliteracy, ~~that~~ WHICH shall be affixed  
13 to the diploma and noted on the transcript of a student to recognize that  
14 the student has met the requirements prescribed in this section.

15 2. Deliver the state seal of biliteracy to each public school  
16 district or charter school that participates in the program.

17 C. Any school district or charter school may voluntarily  
18 participate in the state seal of biliteracy program by notifying the  
19 superintendent of public instruction of the school district's or charter  
20 school's intent to participate in the program.

21 D. Each school district governing board or charter school governing  
22 body that participates in the state seal of biliteracy program shall:

23 1. Identify the students who have met the requirements to be  
24 awarded the state seal of biliteracy.

25 2. Affix the state seal of biliteracy to the diploma and note the  
26 receipt of the state seal of biliteracy on the transcript of each student  
27 who meets those requirements.

28 E. The state board of education, in collaboration with the  
29 department of education, shall adopt a list of assessments using  
30 researched-based methodology to determine a student's proficiency in a  
31 language other than English and may adopt rules as necessary to carry out  
32 the purposes of this section.

33 F. A school district or charter school that participates in the  
34 state seal of biliteracy program established pursuant to this section  
35 shall award a student, on graduation from high school, a high school  
36 diploma with a state seal of biliteracy if the student meets all of the  
37 following requirements:

38 1. Successfully completes all English language arts requirements  
39 for graduation with an overall grade point average in those classes of 2.0  
40 or higher on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent.

41 2. Passes ~~the end-of-course examinations~~ AN EXAMINATION in English  
42 language arts ~~required pursuant to section 15-755~~.

43 3. Demonstrates proficiency in one or more languages other than  
44 English by meeting the requirements adopted pursuant to subsection E of  
45 this section.

1           4. If the student has a primary language other than English,  
2 obtains a score of proficient or higher based on the English language  
3 proficiency standards, pursuant to section 15-756.

4           G. The program established pursuant to this section ends on July 1,  
5 2026 pursuant to section 41-3102.

6           Sec. 2. Retroactivity

7           This act applies retroactively to from and after June 30, 2020.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MARCH 26, 2021.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MARCH 26, 2021.