

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1877 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY D'ORSIE, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, RIVERA, VENKAT, KHAN, WAXMAN, CUTLER, HILL-EVANS, GUZMAN, ZIMMERMAN, ANDERSON, GREEN, MALAGARI AND COOPER, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 28, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 providing for Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
11 section to read:

12 Section 1511.2. Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy.--(a)
13 ~~Notwithstanding section 2604 B(b) (2) (v), 22 Pa. Code § 4.24 <--~~
14 ~~(relating to high school graduation requirements), 4.51~~
15 ~~(relating to State assessment system) or 4.51c (relating to~~
16 ~~project based assessment) or any law to the contrary, the~~
17 ~~Department of Education, beginning BEGINNING with the 2026-2027 <--~~
18 ~~school year, THE DEPARTMENT shall establish criteria for <--~~
19 ~~awarding AND A TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOL ENTITIES TO AWARD A SEAL, TO <--~~

1 BE KNOWN AS the Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy, to any student <--
2 GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL who demonstrates proficiency in <--
3 English and at least one other foreign WORLD language on <--
4 approved diplomas. To qualify for the Pennsylvania Seal of <--
5 Biliteracy SEAL, a student must: <--

6 (1) Complete all requirements to earn a high school diploma.

7 (2) Meet any English proficiency criteria established by the
8 Department of Education DEPARTMENT. <--

9 (3) Meet any foreign WORLD language proficiency criteria <--
10 established by the Department of Education DEPARTMENT. <--

11 (b) By August 31 of the year following the establishment of <--
12 criteria for awarding the Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy under
13 subsection (a) and each August 31 thereafter, the State Board of
14 Education shall issue a report on the efficacy of the seal, rate
15 of completion among graduating students and recommendations for
16 improvement, including proposed legislation, to the chairperson
17 and minority chairperson of the Education Committee of the
18 Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
19 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

20 (B) BEGINNING WITH THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR, A SCHOOL <--
21 ENTITY THAT AWARDS THE SEAL SHALL:

22 (1) FOR A STUDENT WHO IS AWARDED THE SEAL, NOTE THE SEAL ON
23 THE STUDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT ISSUED BY THE SCHOOL
24 ENTITY.

25 (2) BY OCTOBER 31, 2027, AND EACH OCTOBER 31 THEREAFTER,
26 REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PRIOR
27 SCHOOL YEAR:

28 (I) THE NUMBER OF GRADUATING STUDENTS WHO WERE AWARDED THE
29 SEAL.

30 (II) THE NUMBER OF ENGLISH LEARNERS WHO WERE AWARDED THE

1 SEAL.

2 (III) A LIST OF LANGUAGES FOR WHICH THE SEAL WAS AWARDED.

3 (IV) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

4 (C) BY DECEMBER 1, 2027, AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE
5 DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A REPORT ON THE EFFICACY OF THE SEAL TO
6 THE CHAIRPERSON AND MINORITY CHAIRPERSON OF THE EDUCATION
7 COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE CHAIRPERSON AND MINORITY
8 CHAIRPERSON OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES. THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION COLLECTED
10 BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) (2).

11 (D) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES
12 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION UNLESS
13 THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

14 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE
15 COMMONWEALTH.

16 "SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, INTERMEDIATE UNIT, AREA
17 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER
18 SCHOOL OR REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL.

19 "SEAL." THE PENNSYLVANIA SEAL OF BILITERACY AUTHORIZED UNDER
20 THIS SECTION.

21 "WORLD LANGUAGE." AS DEFINED IN 22 PA. CODE § 4.25(D)
22 (RELATING TO LANGUAGES).

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.