

# Delaware Certificate of Multiliteracy

## Frequently Asked Questions



### *Certificate of Multiliteracy*

**1. *What is the Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

Established by [House Joint Resolution 4](#), the Certificate of Multiliteracy is an award given by the Delaware Department of Education to honor and recognize high school students who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.

**2. *What does proficiency in a language mean?***

Proficiency is the ability to use language in real world situations in a spontaneous interaction and non-rehearsed context and in a manner acceptable and appropriate to native speakers of the language. Proficiency demonstrates what a language user is able to do regardless of where, when or how the language was acquired.

**3. *How is language proficiency measured?***

For the purposes of the Certificate of Multiliteracy, world language proficiency is measured according to the [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines](#) which describe what individuals can do with language in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading in real-world situations in a spontaneous and non-rehearsed context. For each skill, these guidelines identify five major levels of proficiency: Distinguished, Superior, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice. The major levels Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice are subdivided into High, Mid, and Low sublevels.

**4. *Are there different levels of certificates for different levels of proficiency?***

Yes, Delaware high school students may apply for two different levels of the certificate:

- **Gold Level** Certificate of Multiliteracy for Intermediate-Mid level of proficiency
- **Diamond Level** Certificate of Multiliteracy for Advanced-Low level of proficiency

**5. *What is the purpose of a Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

The Certificate of Multiliteracy is Delaware's version of the Seal of Biliteracy, which is a national response to recognize the importance of language learning as a critical career and workplace skill. The Certificate is a tangible reminder to students of the benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism. The Certificate of Multiliteracy recognizes and honors students for attaining high levels of language proficiency in languages in addition to English and values native language proficiency of our more than 11,000 English learners in Delaware.



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**6. *What can I do with a Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

A Certificate of Multiliteracy is a credential that can help differentiate you as an applicant for a job, college entrance or the military. Include it with your resume, college applications, and job applications. The back of the certificate outlines what valuable 21st century language skills you bring to the job market, the university or to the military.

**7. *Can middle school students apply for the Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

No, only students enrolled in grades 9-12 may apply for the Certificate of Multiliteracy. However, middle school students may complete components of the assessments necessary and use those to complete an application when in high school.

**8. *What are the criteria for receiving a Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

To receive a Delaware Certificate of Multiliteracy, a student must demonstrate high levels of language proficiency in a world language in addition to English. See the [Certificate of Multiliteracy Student Application](#) for complete criteria.

**9. *Who determines the eligibility of a student to receive a Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

Local school counselors are ultimately responsible for verifying the documentation submitted by students.

**10. *Can a student earn high school credits with a Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

No. The Certificate of Multiliteracy should not be confused with the regulation that allows for demonstrating proficiency to award credit toward fulfilling the high school world language requirement. The Certificate surpasses the high school graduation requirement, is not tied to high school credits and is not awarded based on course completion requirements.

**11. *How do I apply for a Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

- (1) Review the guidelines and requirements for the Delaware Certificate of Multiliteracy.
- (2) Consult a world language teacher, an English Learner teacher or your school counselor at your high school to obtain information about the approved language assessment that would be most appropriate for you.
- (3) If your score qualifies for either of the two levels of the Certificate, complete [the Certificate of Multiliteracy Student Application](#).
- (4) Submit the application with a copy of the appropriate assessment score reports to your school counselor at your school.

**12. *I'm a high school counselor. What do I do once I receive a student's application for the Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

School counselors can simply access the Certificate of Multiliteracy screen in eSchool to enter the student's information. The DOE will process applications on the first working day of the months of November, February, and May. You will receive the student's certificate via state mail within 30 days. It is advised to keep the student applications on file in case the state needs to verify student information at any point.



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**13. *What is the cost of the Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

No fee is charged to students to apply for a Certificate of Multiliteracy. However, students may be responsible for any assessment costs not covered by their school or school district.

**14. *Does the Certificate of Multiliteracy apply to American Sign Language (ASL)?***

Yes. Delaware recognizes American Sign Language as a world language.

**15. *Can a student qualify for the Certificate of Multiliteracy in multiple languages?***

Yes. There is no limit to the number of languages for which a student can qualify. The requirements must be met for each language.

**16. *Will the Certificate of Multiliteracy be mentioned on my high school transcript?***

Currently, no. However, the Department of Education is working on way for the Certificate to be placed on student transcripts.

**17. *Students who use AP (Advanced Placement) or IB (International Baccalaureate) exam scores during their senior year to qualify for a Certificate of Multiliteracy will not receive their results until after graduation. Will they be eligible to receive a Certificate after graduation?***

Yes, the Certificate may be awarded after graduation, however all senior applications must be received by the DOE by May 1. A school or school district may choose to recognize these students as “candidates for the Delaware Certificate of Multiliteracy” during end-of-year recognition ceremonies. Graduates will be mailed their certificate via US mail once scores are verified in July.

**18. *Are students in nonpublic schools in Delaware eligible for a Certificate of Multiliteracy?***

Yes, students in nonpublic schools are eligible to receive a Certificate of Multiliteracy. School counselors will be required to submit the student application along with all score documentation directly to the Department of Education. For additional information regarding the Certificate for nonpublic students, email [cert.multilit@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:cert.multilit@doe.k12.de.us).

**19. *When do I get a Certificate after I apply for it?***

You may apply for a Certificate at any time. Your school counselor will receive your Certificate approximately 30 days after the application has been fully executed via eSchool. The DOE will process applications after the first working day of the following months: November, February, and May. You may use your Certificate to include with your job applications, college applications and scholarship forms. The back of the certificate outlines what valuable 21st century language skills you bring to the job market, the university or to the military.

You school counselor will also receive a medallion bearing the Certificate of Multiliteracy seal during the month of May of your senior year. This medallion may be used by school and district administration during recognition ceremonies.



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**20. *If I apply for a Delaware Certificate of Multiliteracy but move to another state before graduating, am I eligible for another certificate in my new state?***

Currently, 38 other states and the District of Columbia do offer similar awards to recognize your proficiency in languages in addition to English. Both levels of Delaware's Certificate of Multiliteracy are equivalent to or higher than many states' requirements for a Seal of Biliteracy, their version of Delaware's Certificate of Multiliteracy. Since requirements do vary from state to state, consult the [Seal of Biliteracy](#) website.

**21. *Can I take an AP language exam if I'm not enrolled in the AP language course?***

Yes. Students are not required to enroll in an AP course to be able to take the AP exam. You must contact the counselor at your school to find out how to register for AP exams.

**22. *Are English Learners expected to demonstrate the same level of English proficiency as native English speakers?***

All students are required to demonstrate proficiency in English and may do so in a number of ways. See the [Criteria for the Certificate of Multiliteracy](#). High School English Learners have the option of demonstrating English proficiency by attaining a 4.0 composite PL score on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment taken anytime during middle or high school.

**23. *Can anyone take the ACCESS for ELLs assessment or do you have to be identified as an English Learner?***

Only students who have been identified as English Learners may take the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.