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**Authors:** Norton and others

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**Analyst:** Lisa Larson

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### Overview

Establishes voluntary state bilingual and multilingual seals to recognize students who demonstrate level 5 functional native proficiency in speaking and reading in languages other than English. Allows school districts and charter schools to award elective course credits in world languages and community service credits to these students. Requires MNSCU colleges and universities to award foreign language credits to these students.

#### Section

#### **1 Elective standards.**

**Subd. 1a. Foreign language and culture; proficiency certificates.** Makes technical changes to correspond to the provisions in subdivision 1b of the section.

**Subd. 1b. State bilingual and multilingual seals.** (a) Establishes voluntary state bilingual and multilingual seals to recognize high school graduates who demonstrate level 5 functional native proficiency in speaking and reading on the Foreign Services Institute language proficiency tests or on equivalent valid and reliable assessments in one or more languages in addition to English. Declares that American Sign Language is a language other than English for purposes of this subdivision and a world language under subdivision 1a.

(b) In addition to demonstrating language proficiency under paragraph (a), requires students: to satisfactorily complete all English language arts credits; and, if the student's primary language is not English, to demonstrate mastery of Minnesota's English language proficiency standards.

## Section

(c) Makes a student who demonstrates functional native proficiency in one language in addition to English eligible to receive the state bilingual seal. Makes a student who demonstrates functional native proficiency in multiple languages in addition to English eligible to receive the state multilingual seal.

(d) Directs school districts and charter schools, in consultation with regional centers of excellence, to give students periodic opportunities to demonstrate their level of proficiency in speaking and reading in a language in addition to English. Where valid and reliable assessments are unavailable, allows school districts and charter schools to rely on a licensed foreign language immersion teacher or a nonlicensed community expert to assess a student's level of foreign, heritage, or indigenous language proficiency. Requires school districts and charter schools to maintain appropriate records to identify students who are eligible to receive a seal. Requires school districts and charter schools to affix the seal to students' transcripts and allows the seal to be affixed to students' high school diplomas. Prohibits school districts and charter schools from charging students a fee for a seal.

(e) Allows school districts and charter schools to award elective course credits in world languages to a student in demonstrates proficiency in a language other than English.

(f) Allows school districts and charter schools to award community service credit to students who demonstrate level 5 functional native proficiency in speaking and reading in a language other than English and who participate in community service activities that are integrated into the curriculum, involve the participation of teachers, and support biliteracy in the school or community.

(g) Directs the education commissioner to develop a Web page for electronic delivery of the seals. Requires the commissioner to list on the Web page those assessments that are equivalent to the Foreign Services Institute language proficiency tests and make all language proficiency tests and equivalent assessments available to school districts and charter schools without cost.

(h) Directs MNSCU colleges and universities to award foreign language credits to students who receive a bilingual or multilingual seal and allows the colleges and universities to award foreign language credits to students who receive world language proficiency certificates under subdivision 1a.

Makes this section effective for the 2014-2015 school year and later.

**2 District advisory committee.** Amends a cross reference to reflect the changes in section 1.

Makes this section effective for the 2014-2015 school year and later.

**3 Regional centers of excellence.** Amends a cross reference to reflect the changes in section 1.

Makes this section effective for the 2014-2015 school year and later.

**4 Public engagement; progress report and budget process.** Amends a cross reference to

**Section**

reflect the changes in section 1.

Makes this section effective for the 2014-2015 school year and later.