

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

RESEARCH STAFF



TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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DATE: February 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Strike everything amendment to S.B. 1404, relating to state seal of biliteracy; assessment

Purpose

Modifies the required end-of-course examinations for a student to receive a state seal of biliteracy on their high school diploma.

Background

The State Seal of Biliteracy Program (Program) recognizes high school graduates in Arizona who attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.

Participating school districts or charter schools award a graduating high school student a diploma with a state seal of biliteracy if the student meets the following requirements: 1) completes all graduation requirements in English Language Arts with at least a cumulative 2.0 grade point average in those courses on a 4.0 scale or equivalent; 2) passes the English Language Arts end-of-course examinations; 3) demonstrates proficiency in one or more languages, other than English, on an assessment adopted by the State Board of Education and the Arizona Department of Education; and 4) achieves a proficient score or higher on English language proficiency assessments, if the student is an English language learner ([A.R.S. § 15-258](#)).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) creates a state seal of biliteracy that is affixed to a high school diploma and noted on a student's transcript to recognize the student has met all the prescribed requirements. Any school district or charter school can participate in the Program by notifying the SPI ([A.R.S. § 15-258](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires a student to pass an examination in English Language Arts, instead of the end-of-course examinations, to receive a state seal of biliteracy on their high school diploma.
2. Makes technical and conforming changes.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date, retroactive to July 1, 2020.