

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
August 21, 2025

OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Q. Approval of Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy proficiency assessments and vendors for use in determining student levels of language proficiency

(See attached list)

In accordance with the Mississippi State Board of Education Policy Chapter 28.8, (below) the MDE will provide a list of approved assessments for use in determining student levels of language proficiency. Districts will utilize approved vendors to provide proficiency assessments awarded from this solicitation to determine student levels of proficiency for awarding local seals of biliteracy. The assessments include the language domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) that are appropriate for the given language, the modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) appropriate for the language, and adhere to the major levels of proficiency as described by the American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Mississippi State Board of Education Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.8

The purpose of this policy is to establish minimum criteria for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in awarding Seals of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes and awards students who have attained proficiency in one or more world languages and English by high school graduation. The Seal of Biliteracy demonstrates attainment of biliteracy for students, employers, and post-secondary institutions. It also signals a student's readiness for college and career, as well as engagement as a global citizen. Participation in the Mississippi Department of Education's (MDE) Seal of Biliteracy shall be determined by LEAs. Beginning school year 2019-2020, the MDE shall require participating school districts to follow the award process as defined in the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidance Document. LEAs are also required to report Seal of Biliteracy award data to the MDE.

A request for qualifications was released, and proposed vendors were reviewed by a panel with expertise in world languages and English learners. Vendors that met all required components of the scope of services were approved for inclusion on the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Approved List of Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy proficiency assessments.

Vendors must execute a data sharing agreement with MDE and work with districts to ensure that testing and reports are provided within the deadline requirements of the school district.

Approved vendors provided the following Scope of Services:

- Required Assessment Components,
- Assessment Scoring and Reporting,
- Developmental Appropriateness,
- Reliability and Validity.

Scope of Contract:

- Term of Contract: August 21, 2025 – June 30, 2030
- Total Amount to be Awarded: No MDE funds will be expended
- Method of Award: Districts will be responsible for payment
- Funding Source: N/A

Summary of Selection Process:

A selection committee reviewed acceptable RFQs that were completed, submitted by an established deadline, and met the qualifications. Only vendors that met all required components will be placed on the SBE-approved MDE MS Seal of Biliteracy proficiency assessments list.

Scoring Criteria:

- A. Overview and Work Plan
- B. Assessment Components
- C. Assessment Scoring Reporting
- D. Reliability and Validity
- E. Developmental Appropriateness
- F. Reliability and Validity

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Mississippi Department of Education
Approved List of Assessments for the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy
Proficiency Assessments and Vendors
For Use by Districts and Schools
August 21, 2025

Vendor Name	Assessment Name
<i>Avant Assessment</i>	<i>STAndards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) 4S Assessments</i> <i>STAndards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) WS Assessments</i> <i>STAndards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) Assessments</i>
<i>Language Testing International</i>	<i>ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL)</i> <i>ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA)</i> <i>ACTFL OPI & WPT for the Seal of Biliteracy (OPT/WPT Bundle)</i>
<i>American Sign Language Functional Ability Interview</i>	<i>American Sign Language Functional Ability Interview (ASLFAI)</i>
<i>Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language</i>	<i>Test Of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL)</i>