

From: **Ron Davis** < >  
Date: Tue, May 24, 2022 at 7:57 AM  
Subject: State seal for Biliteracy in ASL for Granada High Seniors  
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Dear Ms. Christmas

It was brought to my attention that my daughter will not be receiving the California state seal of Biliteracy for her completion of the American Sign Language (ASL) course at Granada High School, unless she takes and passes a test that is scheduled far beyond her graduation date. How can this be acceptable with such short notice, and with no regard for what these students have endured over the last two years. My daughter satisfied all the requirements for earning the state seal of biliteracy on her diploma. She was given the requirements that were necessary to obtain this seal 3 years ago and she has met those requirements.

Under the second – language proficiency requirement she had to demonstrate either by taking and passing an AP/IB exam or SAT II exam, *OR* complete a 4 year high school course ( at Granada she did it in 3 years) and demonstrate oral proficiency in ASL which she did through an proficiency assessment developed by Ms. Cedar and approved by the LVJUSD. *Education code section 51461(a)(3)(C), states that if your district determines that the test “meets the rigor of a four-year high school course of study in that world language” and that it “at a minimum, assesses speaking, reading and writing [ or the modalities of communication that exist in the language ] in a language other than English at the Proficient level or higher”, then your district may use the assessment.*

The assessment option is typically used for students who have home language proficiency but may not have completed the coursework in the language. But this is where it is disappointing, my daughter did complete the required coursework in ASL and demonstrated oral proficiency. Therefore, the taking of a AP/IB exam should not be required.

My daughter and her senior classmates are going to Senior Awards Night this Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, expecting to be awarded for the hard work they have done and accomplishing what they were told to a few years ago. It would be a shame for them to not receive the California state seal of Biliteracy on their diplomas when they completed the requirements and now all of a sudden it has changed.

I wholeheartedly hope that you would think of what these seniors have gone through, what they have accomplished and consider the impact on them. This is an issue that was put upon them that appears to show no regard for fairness. But you can fix this. Do the right thing, these ASL students deserve those seals on their diplomas.

Thank you for your attention on this matter that is very important to my child and myself.

Ron Davis

Father of (Granada High School Senior)