

Information from Our Partners

World Languages Newsflash: Seal of Biliteracy Rules Revision Focus Group Members Wanted

OSPI's Office of World Languages is looking to update the [WA State Seal of Biliteracy \(WAC 392-410-350\)](#) to add a second level of award to recognize students who have achieved a higher level of proficiency in one language other than English or have earned the original Seal in two or more languages other than English.

As this change will affect multiple interest groups, OSPI is looking for professionals who can represent these areas:

- MS/HS World Language Education
- MS/HS Dual/Heritage Language or Bilingual Education
- MS/HS/District Administration (Department Head, Subject Area Coordinator, Directors, TOSA, etc.)
- University Education and Language Professors
- Special Education
- American Sign Language
- Less Commonly Taught/Tested Languages
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Assessment/Reporting
- Alternative Learning Experience/Options

For Tribal languages, OSPI will work with the Office of Native Education and Tribal consultation will occur.

This will be a two-hour, one-time Zoom meeting per group held in January and February 2024. Participants will receive a draft copy of the proposed revisions at the beginning of the session, 45 minutes to review, and then come back for a group discussion to give feedback, ideas, and suggestions. Those selected will be contacted in early January with a meeting time/date poll. *Clock Hours will be available for those who want them.*

Apply [HERE](#).

For questions, please email [Veronica Trapani-Huebner](#)



Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education Inclusion Stories

Inclusion Stories is a five-episode audio documentary series that tells the stories of families and school districts who have committed to pursuing authentic inclusive education. The efforts of the Inclusionary Practices Project (IPP) are highlighted in Chapters 3 and 4, as described below.

In Chapter One, Carolina and Jaiker open up about their determination for an inclusive education for their daughter Natalia, who has Down syndrome. They share their challenges in navigating the special education system and the impactful decision to remove Natalia from special education services. The episode also features insights from Cecil County Public Schools, where inclusive practices are the standard.

Chapter Two introduces Christina and Justin's quest for inclusive education for their daughter Harper in general education and their battles with the school district's initial placement recommendations. Their concerns about an upcoming IEP meeting and the potential for a separate placement for Harper are explored. Bre Gastaldi's visit to West Linn-Wilsonville near Portland, Oregon, showcases the significance of supportive and knowledgeable school leaders and the need for strong district-level leadership to drive systemic change.

In Chapter Three, the narrator journeys through inclusive schools in Washington state, highlighting McMicken Elementary School and Sehome High School, both committed to creating inclusive environments where all learners are valued and included.

In Chapter Four, the narrator visits Ruby Bridges Elementary School in Woodinville, Washington and speaks with educators, administrators, and leaders at the school and the state to understand how inclusive practices are being implemented and the impact they have on students with disabilities. The episode starts off with conversations with self-advocates and families at the Tools for the Journey Conference in Pasadena, California. We meet Kristin and Sevi as they navigate what inclusion looks like for him in high school.

In Chapter Five, the narrator reflects on his journey advocating for inclusive education, facing obstacles in non-inclusive school systems. The story of Damian, a student with multiple disabilities, highlights the limitations of an approach involving relying only on paraprofessionals to implement inclusive education. Recognizing the lack of true inclusion and systemic issues, he discusses the transformative impact even one teacher can have during a conversation with a former colleague. He also explores the progress and challenges of Sevi, Harper, and Natalia—students with disabilities whose families advocate for inclusive education. The episode concludes with hopeful discussions with future educators and a thought-provoking question for everyone.

To listen to the entire series, click [Inclusion Stories Podcast](#) or listen on your favorite podcast app on your phone.