



## BILINGUALISM AND BILITERACY

Mount Vernon School District is a culturally and linguistically diverse community. Our students represent many nationalities and speak several diverse languages. The district strongly supports inclusion and belonging for culturally and linguistically diverse learners. The Mount Vernon School District sees bilingualism and biliteracy as a strength and an asset for our students and our community. It is the goal of Mount Vernon School District that all students become bilingual and biliterate with the ability to speak, read, and write in English and an additional language and those students who wish to pursue bilingualism and biliteracy will graduate and earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

Bilingualism and biliteracy enriches students through:

- A. Increased career opportunities and economic advantages in the workplace
- B. Cognitive advantages of bilingualism in developing increased critical thinking skills and academic achievement across content areas, including English Language Development
- C. Cross-cultural understanding, that connects students to their own cultures and the cultures of others and builds a more engaged and cohesive community

To reach this goal, we are committed to:

- A. Engaging our community to identify resources for teaching languages and implementing well-supported language-learning programs
- B. Providing strong and effective English language instruction for students learning English as an additional language
- C. Providing language-learning opportunities in a language other than English for all students as part of their regular academic program K-12. These options include:
  - a. K-12 Dual Language programs
  - b. K-12 World Language programs

The District will report annually to the school board on the progress toward this goal as part of a strategic plan update or as part of a bilingual program update.

Cross References:	3210 - Nondiscrimination
	4129 - Family Involvement
	4217 - Effective Communication
	4218 - Language Access Plan
Legal References:	Chapter 28A.180 RCW Transitional bilingual instruction program
	WAC 162-28-040 English language limitations and national origin discrimination
	Chapter 392-160 WAC Special service program - Transitional bilingual