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## **FUSD/California Show Increase in Students Earning State Seal of Biliteracy**

**(Fremont, CA, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015)** – Preparing for an increasingly global society, both the Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) and State of California are proud to announce an increase in high school graduates earning the State Seal of Biliteracy.

In an October 9<sup>th</sup> press release, the California Department of Education reported that more high school students graduated with a State Seal of Biliteracy in 2015 than ever before – nearly three times the amount of when the program started in 2012. The program, which California was the first state in the nation to create and since emulated across the country, recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in languages other than English.

In 2015, 31,816 graduating California public high school students earned the biliteracy gold seal, which was affixed to their diplomas, for achieving proficiency in multiple languages including Spanish, French, Mandarin, German, Japanese, Latin, Korean, Vietnamese and Cantonese. This number is nearly three times the 10,685 reported in 2012. That number increased to 19,586 in 2013 and 24,151 in 2014. The recognition is awarded by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with specified criteria set forth in Education Code Section 51461.

"Becoming multilingual is a huge asset in today's global economy, so I applaud the rising numbers of students attaining high levels of proficiency in multiple languages," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson. "These skills will help students to live, work, and thrive in a multicultural, multilingual, and highly connected world."

At FUSD, 184 graduating seniors, representing all five of the District's comprehensive high schools, earned the Seal in 2015 – an increase of three students from 2014 and 12 students from 2013. FUSD offers foreign language courses in Spanish, French, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, Hindi and Tamil.

"I congratulate all students for such an impressive accomplishment, as well as the State of California for creating such a valuable program to prepare young men and women for a changing world," said FUSD Superintendent, Dr. Jim Morris. "I look forward to celebrating more and more of not only our students, but those from around California leaving school ready to communicate with businesses, educators and leaders from around the world."

**(more)**

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The State Seal of Biliteracy was established by Assembly Bill 815. Since then, Washington D.C. and several other states - Washington, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Virginia, New York, and Hawaii - have created their own biliteracy programs.

For more information, please visit the California Department of Education's State Seal of Biliteracy Web page at [www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/sealofbiliteracy.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/sealofbiliteracy.asp). For information on other states with seal of biliteracy programs, please see the Seal of Biliteracy website at <http://sealofbiliteracy.org/>.

**About FUSD:** The Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) is made up of 42 schools serving nearly 35,000 students in grades K-12. With 130 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists and three California 'Gold Ribbon' schools named for 2015, FUSD's mission is to provide equitable opportunities to Educate, Challenge and Inspire students of all ages, talents and ability levels, while striving to prepare each with the skills required to adapt and succeed in an ever-changing world. FUSD is located in the City of Fremont, California, a thriving international community. Residents come from countries across the globe to call Fremont home. FUSD takes pride in its diversity, its community, and in its schools. Visit the District's website at [www.fremont.k12.ca.us](http://www.fremont.k12.ca.us), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#) pages for more information.

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