

Missouri Migrant and English Language Learner Program Resolution in Support of the Seal of Biliteracy

WHEREAS, the study of world languages prepares students to communicate effectively in the 21st century;

WHEREAS, mastery of two or more languages makes important contributions to a student's cognitive development, understanding of diverse cultures, and economic opportunities;

WHEREAS, literacy in two or more languages represents a challenging academic standard;

WHEREAS, developing a child's home language is a strong foundation for academic literacy in English; and

WHEREAS, the ability to communicate with members of other nations and cultures is a crucial component of preparing success-ready students for the challenges of a global society;

WHEREAS, Missouri is home to tens of thousands of students for whom English is a second, or third, language;

WHEREAS, the study of foreign languages contributes towards our national economy and our national security;

WHEREAS, the demand for employees fluent in more than one language is increasing in Missouri, and throughout the world;

WHEREAS, the demand for employees to be fluent in more than one language is increasing both in Missouri and throughout the world

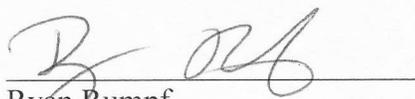
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Migrant and English Language Learner program hereby formally endorses the *Seal of Biliteracy* for Missouri public school districts to recognize significant biliteracy achievement on high school transcripts and *Pathway to Biliteracy* awards to recognize mastery of significant bilingual benchmarks at the elementary and middle school levels.

By formally endorsing the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy, the MELL program seeks to:

- encourage districts to offer rich and varied opportunities to acquire a second language.
- provide an incentive for high school ELs to graduate
- revitalize and promote language instruction in our schools
- encourage the development of dual language immersion programs, and foreign, native and heritage language programs in schools
- recognize and honor our rich and diverse language assets



Shawn Cockrum
MELL State Director



Ryan Rumpf
DESE Director of ELL Curriculum