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Administrative Offices**

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October, 2022

Dear Westford Families:

Westford Public Schools value global learning and seek to honor the linguistic diversity of members within our community. We are highly appreciative of the dedication of our students and the commitment they have demonstrated or will demonstrate over an extended period of time to learn languages in school, as well as to maintain languages spoken at home. To recognize the importance of multiculturalism and multilingualism, the Westford Public Schools are proud to participate in the *Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy* program.¹

As a **future** opportunity, the State Seal of Biliteracy will be awarded to **high school seniors** who are able to demonstrate proficiency and literacy² in two or more languages, a partner language and English, as measured by state-approved assessments. Please note that the Seal of Biliteracy can be awarded in all languages and is not limited to languages taught in Westford. The program seeks to encourage students to maintain proficiency in their heritage languages, as well as to learn new languages. Many employers and universities recognize the value of the Seal, which encourages students to deepen their language skills and expand their cultural literacy in order to be better prepared to enter the workforce and contribute to our global society.

The following chart outlines the eligibility requirements for the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy program:

| Pathway Award | Assessment Criteria for English and Partner Language |
|---|---|
| Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy With Distinction | Score of <i>Exceeding Expectations</i> (a score of 501 and above on the grade 10 ELA MCAS (or a score on the ACCESS test which meets state exit criteria) AND Scores of <i>Advanced - Low</i> in all domains/modes of a proficiency test or other approved alternative assessment (dependent on partner language). |
| Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy | Score of <i>Meeting Expectations</i> (minimum score of 472) on the grade 10 ELA MCAS (or a score on the ACCESS test which meets state exit criteria) AND Scores of <i>Intermediate-High</i> in all domains/modes of a proficiency test or other approved alternative assessment (dependent on partner language) |

For more information, please see the [Seal of Biliteracy FAQ](#) sheet which may be found on the [World Language Department](#) page of the Westford Academy website. Please contact Stephanie Grabowski-Devlin, World Language Curriculum Coordinator with questions: sdevlin@westfordk12.us

Sincerely,

Dr. Kerry Clery,
Assistant Superintendent

Magaly Ronan, Director of
Equity, Curriculum and Instruction

Stephanie Grabowski-Devlin
World Language Curriculum Coordinator, 6-12

¹ The Seal of Biliteracy is part of the LOOK Act. The LOOK Act was signed into law by Governor Baker on November 22, 2017; <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr31.html?section=07>

² Proficiency is defined as the ability to function in a language at a high degree of competence. Literacy may take different forms depending upon the language. For example, literacy in spoken languages includes the ability to listen, speak, read, and write in the partner language. Literacy in Latin includes the ability to read and interpret Latin.