

CHRISTOPHER CHEW, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

COURTNEY L. MORAN, M.Ed.
Assistant Superintendent



GERARD COUGHLIN, M.Ed.
Director of Special Education & Social Emotional Learning

MAGALY RODRIGUEZ RONAN, M.Ed.
Director of Equity, Curriculum, & Instruction

JENNY LIN, CPA
Director of School Finance

**Westford Public Schools
Administrative Offices**

23 Depot St. • Westford, Massachusetts 01886
www.westfordk12.us • (978) 692-5560 • FAX (978) 392-4497

October, 2023

Dear Students and Families of the Class of 2024:

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 their commitment to study other languages and cultures in school, as well as to maintain languages spoken at home. To recognize the importance of multiculturalism and multilingualism, Westford Academy is proud to participate in the [Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy program](#).

The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to MA high school seniors who are able to demonstrate proficiency and literacy in both English and a partner language, as measured by state-approved assessments. Please note that the Seal of Biliteracy includes all languages and is not limited to languages taught in Westford schools. 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. Students who demonstrate the required language skills to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy will be recognized at graduation and have the official state seal affixed to their high school transcripts and diplomas.

This chart outlines the eligibility requirements for the State Seal of Biliteracy program for 2024 graduates:

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 [World Language Department](#) page of the Westford Academy website for a [Seal of Biliteracy FAQ document](#) as well the [Seal of Biliteracy Application](#). Students must use their @westfordk12.us credentials to access and submit the application by **December 22, 2023**. The qualifying exams will be administered at the end of February. Please contact Stephanie Grabowski-Devlin, World Language Curriculum Coordinator with questions: sdevlin@westfordk12.us.

Sincerely,

Magaly Ronan
Director of Equity, Curriculum &
Instruction

Dan Twomey
Westford Academy Principal

Stephanie Grabowski-Devlin
World Language Curriculum Coordinator

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.