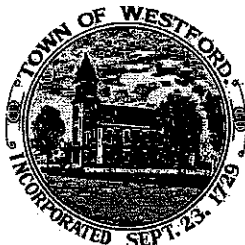


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Dear Westford Families:

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 other languages as well as maintain other languages at home and in school. To recognize the importance of multiculturalism and multilingualism, the Westford Public Schools are proud to participate in the *Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy* program¹.

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 includes all languages, and is not limited to languages taught in Westford. Many employers and universities recognize the value of the Seal, which encourages students to deepen their language skills and expand their cultural understandings 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 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 Score of <i>Advanced - Low</i> in the lowest domain/mode 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 Score of <i>Intermediate-High</i> in the lowest domain/mode 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

Mr. James Antonelli
Principal

Ms. 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. Literacy in American Sign Language includes the ability to interpret and react to signed communication.