



Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District

Office of the Superintendent

Dear parents and guardians,

We are pleased to inform you of Ashburnham-Westminster's participation in the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy Program. This seal is a recognized credential for those students who can prove they are literate in English and another language. The most common way of earning this recognition is by passing the 10th grade ELA MCAS and a foreign language AP exam but there are other pathways.

The Seal of Biliteracy is for any student who demonstrates proficiency in English and any other language, whether they speak the non-English language at home or learned it at school. The State program aims to (amongst other things) encourage students to study and master languages, certify attainment of biliteracy skills, recognize the value of language diversity and provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills (MA Department of Education).*

In order to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, students must:

- (a) Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English by satisfying one of the following:
 - 1. Earn a score of at least 472 on Next-Gen ELA MCAS **or**
 - 2. Earn a minimum score of 455 on Next-Gen MCAS and complete an Educational Proficiency Plan and attain a minimum score or level on a nationally recognized and readily available English proficiency assessment approved by the Department, such as ACCESS for ELLs.
- (b) Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in a partner language through one of the following:
 - 1. Attaining a minimum score equivalent to Intermediate-High on a state approved assessment **or**
 - 2. For languages that do not have readily available assessments, completing a portfolio demonstrating Intermediate-High proficiency in speaking / signing, writing, reading, and listening, when applicable.

Please visit the Seal of Biliteracy [webpage](#) for more information. The price for the test is around \$35 (depending upon the language) and assistance is available. If your student needs accommodations while testing or financial assistance, please contact Paul DuBois when you register.

Juniors and Seniors may register with their guidance counselor by March 15th to take a test this spring.

We look forward to honoring the language expertise and diversity in our district through this initiative. If you have any further questions, please contact Paul DuBois at pdubois@awrsd.org

Sincerely,

Paul DuBois
Director of Curriculum and Instruction