NASHOBA Regional School District

Together, we inspire and challenge all learners to realize their unique potential and become active contributors to their community

Office of the Superintendent
Kirk Downing, *Superintendent*
Laura Friend, *Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning*

September 6, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to inform you that Nashoba Regional School District is participating in the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy for the 2023-24 school year. The Seal of Biliteracy is offered to any student who demonstrates proficiency in English and any other language, whether they speak or sign the language at home or learned it at school or in the community. The State Seal of Biliteracy aims to:

1. Encourage students to study and master languages;
2. Certify attainment of biliteracy skills;
3. Recognize the value of language diversity;
4. Provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills;
5. Provide universities with a method to recognize and give credit to applicants for attainment of high-level skills in languages;
6. Prepare students with skills that will benefit them in the labor market and the global society; and
7. Strengthen intergroup communication and honor the multiple cultures and languages in a community

Local colleges and universities are exploring awarding college credit for earning the Seal of Biliteracy similar to Advanced Placement courses.

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

1. Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English by earning a score of 472 or higher on the Grade 10 ELA MCAS,
2. Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in a world language by attaining a minimum score equivalent to Intermediate-High on an assessment approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and
3. Satisfy all other graduation requirements.

The *Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction* is available to students who:

1. Earn a score of 501 or higher on the Grade 10 ELA MCAS,
2. Demonstrate a proficiency level of Advanced Low or higher on a Department-approved assessment, and
3. Satisfy all other graduation requirements.

For any student interested in pursuing the Seal of Biliteracy, we will be administering the world language specific, DESE approved, assessments this spring. There is a nominal fee attached to the assessments, which will be communicated to families prior to the registration process.

If you are interested in pursuing the State Seal of Biliteracy, please complete this *survey*. This is just to indicate interest for our planning and does not require a commitment at this time.

We look forward to honoring the language expertise and diversity in our district through this initiative.