



# WESTPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

March 24, 2022

Dear Westport Learning Community:

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We are pleased to inform you of Westport's participation in the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy initiative for the 2021-2022 school year. 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 or in the community. The State Seal of Biliteracy aims to:

- (a) Encourage students to study and master languages;
- (b) Certify attainment of biliteracy skills;
- (c) Recognize the value of language diversity;
- (d) Provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills;
- (e) Provide universities with a method to recognize and give credit to applicants for attainment of high-level skills in languages;
- (f) Prepare students with skills that will benefit them in the labor market and the global society; and
- (g) Strengthen intergroup communication and honor the multiple cultures and languages in a community.\*

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 240 or higher on the Grade 10 Legacy ELA MCAS (472 on Next-Gen MCAS) or
  2. Earn a score of 220 or higher on the Grade 10 Legacy ELA MCAS (455 on Next-Gen MCAS) and complete an Educational Proficiency Plan
- (b) Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in a world 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, writing, reading, and listening.

The ELA MCAS for high school students was recently administered. For eligible students, we will also be administering an approved world language assessment. Students seeking to earn the Seal through portfolio assessment must have portfolio scores submitted to the District prior to their graduation date.

We look forward to honoring the language expertise and diversity in our District through this initiative. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Darren C. Elwell  
Director of Curriculum

\*Obtained from Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education