



WESTPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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April 14, 2023

Dear Westport Families,

We are pleased to inform you of Westport Community School's participation in the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy for the 2022-2023 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 other than English 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.

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, 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.

Tenth grade students took the ELA MCAS on March 28 & 29, 2023, and we will be offering assessments in Portuguese at various dates 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 Lisa H. Kaminski at lkaminski@westportschools.org.

Sincerely,

Lisa H. Kaminski
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and PD

It is the policy of the Westport Community Schools to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment, violence or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status.