



BILLERICA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



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Dear parents and guardians,

We are pleased to inform you of Billerica's participation in the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy (SOBL) for the 2025–2026 School Year. Students Grades 11 and 12 are invited to participate in this program this spring. The Seal 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;
7. Strengthen intergroup communication and honor the multiple cultures and languages in a community

Student Criteria for the State Seal of Biliteracy	Student Criteria for the State Seal of Biliteracy <i>with Distinction</i>
Meet all graduation requirements	Meet all graduation requirements
472 or higher on Grade 10 ELA MCAS*	501 or higher on Grade 10 ELA MCAS
A score equivalent to or higher than <i>Intermediate High</i> on an approved world language assessment	A score equivalent to or higher than <i>Advanced Low</i> on an approved world language assessment

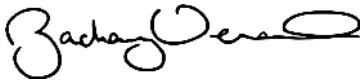
**Students who earn a scaled score between 455 and 471 on the Grade 10 ELA MCAS test or retest may still satisfy the English language criteria for the State Seal of Biliteracy if they fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan and attain a minimum score or level on a nationally recognized and readily available English proficiency assessment approved by the Department, such as ACCESS for ELLs.*

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Most students will take the ELA MCAS in March of their sophomore year. Regular retake opportunities are also available. Alternative English proficiency testing takes place in January. We will administer the proficiency tests in languages other than English throughout each school year.

We look forward to honoring the language expertise and diversity in our district through this initiative. Information from DESE can be found online at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/biliteracy/>. If you have any further questions about the Seal of Biliteracy during the 2025 - 2026 school year, please contact our World Languages Curriculum Support Specialist, Zac Vennard via email at zvennard@billerica12.com.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zachary Vennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zac Vennard
Curriculum Support Specialist, World Languages
Billerica Memorial High School