

What is the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy?



The Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate proficiency in English and a World Language. If you earn the Seal of Biliteracy or the Seal with Distinction, you receive a special seal on your high school diploma and are recognized during the Senior Awards Ceremony.

How do I qualify for the Seal?

To find out if you earn the Seal of Biliteracy, you will take a computer-based language exam that evaluates your World Language skills in Speaking, Writing, Reading, and Listening. In order to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, you need to earn a score of **Intermediate High** in all domains. If you score **Advanced Low** in the four domains, you qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction. You must also have taken the ELA MCAS exam and earned a score of Meets or Exceeds. You may earn the Seal of Biliteracy in any language you qualify with.

How do I sign up?

In the fall of 2025, Dr. Mahoney, the World Language Coordinator, will send a letter to all senior families who may be interested in qualifying for the Seal. Students can register on a Google Form to show their interest. During a PRIDE block in December, you will learn about the exam and testing requirements. Testing will occur during the school day during several test periods in December, March, and May.

What can I do with this award?

Earning the Seal of Biliteracy demonstrates your bilingual skills to future colleges, universities, and employers. The ability to communicate in multiple languages is a valuable skill and incredibly important in many careers. Many universities recognize those who have earned the Seal with advanced course placement or college credit.

CPS Seal of Biliteracy Facts:

In 2024-25, 29 members of the graduating class earned the Biliteracy Achievement Award, Seal of Biliteracy or Seal of Biliteracy with distinction.

In 2024-25, CHS students tested in French, Spanish, American Sign Language, Portuguese, Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, Arabic, Mandarin, Vietnamese.

For the CHS class of 2026, 25 students have already earned qualifying scores for the Seal of Biliteracy; 16 students have already earned qualifying scores for the Seal with Distinction.

Graduates from Class of 2025 Earned the Awards in the Following World Languages:

French
Spanish

ASL
Kannada

Vietnamese
Portuguese

Questions? Email Dr. Mahoney, World Language Coordinator - mahoneyd@chelmsford.k12.ma.us