

October 2025

Dear Chelmsford Public Schools Parents/Guardians and Students:

We are pleased to inform you of Chelmsford Public Schools' continued participation in the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy recognizes student achievement and proficiency in more than one language and is awarded upon graduation from Chelmsford High School. The Seal of Biliteracy is for any student who demonstrates a high proficiency in English and another language, whether they speak/sign the non-English language at home or learned it at school or in the community. The State Seal of Biliteracy aims to:

- Encourage students to study and master languages;
- Certify attainment of biliteracy skills;
- Recognize the value of language diversity;
- Provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills;
- Provide universities with a method to recognize and give credit to applicants for attainment of high-level skills in languages;
- Prepare students with skills that will benefit them in the labor market and the global society; and
- Strengthen intergroup communication and honor the multiple cultures and languages in a community.
- Students who earn the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy will receive an affixed seal on their high school diploma, as well as regalia for graduation, and the opportunity to earn college credit!

Some state colleges and universities and community colleges that currently offer credit for the Seal of Biliteracy (this is not a complete list):

- Bridgewater State University
- Bunker Hill Community College
- Cape Cod Community College
- Massachusetts Bay Community College
- Middlesex Community College
- Mount Wachusett Community College
- North Shore Community College
- Northern Essex Community College
- Quinsigamond Community College
- Salem State University
- University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
- Worcester State University

In order to earn the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy all students, including heritage language speakers, students of a world language studied at school, at home or in the community, must

demonstrate a high level of proficiency in a world language through the **Avant STAMP** (**ST**andards-based **M**easurement of **P**roficiency) **4S** Assessment (or another assessment that assess the target language—any language!). This computer-adaptive assessment measures a student’s proficiency level, novice-advanced, in reading, writing, listening and speaking of the target language. The STAMP 4S is based on the internationally recognized ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines and complements the updated Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s [World Language Curriculum Frameworks](#).

The chart below summarizes the criteria for each award:

Award	Award Assessment Criteria
Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy	-Earn a score of 472 or higher on the Grade 10 ELA MCAS or retest -Earn a score of Intermediate High or higher on a standardized language proficiency test or a score of 4 on AP Language & Culture (French, Spanish, etc.) -Satisfy all other graduation requirements
Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy <i>With Distinction</i>	-Earn a score of 501 or higher on the grade 10 ELA MCAS or retest -Earn a score of Advanced-Low or higher on a standardized language proficiency test or a score of 5 on AP Language & Culture (French, Spanish, etc.) -Satisfy all other graduation requirements

To earn the MA State Seal, all students (world languages, heritage, and MLLs) must attain a score of 472-500 on the Grade 10 ELA MCAS and an intermediate high score in all domains on the STAMP 4S. To receive the MA State Seal with Distinction, a score of 501+ on the ELA MCAS is required, as well as an advanced low score in all domains of the STAMP 4S.

Multilingual Learners (MLLs) may demonstrate English proficiency through the following:

Assessments in English	Source	Language	Skills Assessed	MA State Seal of Biliteracy – Minimum score or level to qualify:	MA State Seal of Biliteracy <i>with Distinction</i> – Minimum score or level to qualify:
Legacy ELA MCAS test or retest	State Assessment	English	Reading Writing	240-258	260 or higher
Next-Gen ELA MCAS test or retest	State Assessment	English	Reading Writing	472-500	501 or higher

Seniors who are interested in testing for the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy should plan to attend an informational meeting during one Pride Block in the Language Lab in December AND [sign up here](#). To test, you will be expected to BOTH sign up AND attend an informational meeting with Dr. Mahoney.

Testing will take place in December and February/March for seniors and in May for any juniors wishing to test. The test takes several hours to complete.

We look forward to honoring the language expertise and diversity in our district through these endeavors. If you have any further questions, please contact Danja Mahoney (mahoneyd@chelmsford.k12.ma.us), the World Language & Cultural Exchange Coordinator for the Chelmsford Public Schools.

For more information about the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy, please visit the [DESE Website for the MA Seal](#).

Resources: [Sample exam](#) and [Resources](#)

Sincerely,

Danja Mahoney, Ed.D.

World Language & Cultural Exchange Coordinator

Chelmsford Public Schools