



Haverhill Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

February 10, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are pleased to inform you of Haverhill Public School's participation in the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy for the 2020-2021 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. *

Haverhill Public Schools wants to recognize and honor the linguistic strengths and celebrate the accomplishments of our students who have studied and demonstrated excellence in at least two languages to be prepared for their next steps in a global society.

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
 - 3. ACCESS for ELLs is administered to English learners each year and may be used to satisfy the English language criteria for the State Seal of Biliteracy. Students must demonstrate English proficiency on ACCESS for ELLs with an overall score of at least level 4.2 and a composite literacy score of at least level 3.9.
- (b) Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in a foreign language by attaining a minimum score equivalent to Intermediate-High on a state approved assessment.

We look forward to honoring the language expertise and diversity in our district through this initiative. If you have any further questions, please contact Heidi Perez, Supervisor K-12 English Learner Programs at (978) 420-1933 or Jami Dion, Supervisor of School Counseling K-12 at (978) 374-5700.

Sincerely,

Margaret Marotta

Margaret Marotta, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

