



Haverhill Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

February 9, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are pleased to inform you of Haverhill Public School's participation in the Massachusetts State Seal of Bilingualism for the 2022-2023 School Year for the second year. The Seal of Bilingualism 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 Bilingualism aims to:

- (a) Encourage students to study and master languages;
- (b) Certify attainment of bilingualism skills;
- (c) Recognize the value of language diversity;
- (d) Provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and bilingualism 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.

Students graduating in 2024 may satisfy the criteria for the State Seal of Bilingualism by meeting the following:

1. Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English by earning a score of 472 or higher on the Grade 10 ELA MCAS test or retest
2. Earn a score of intermediate high or higher on a Department-approved world language assessment.
3. Satisfy all other graduation requirements.

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, Director of Multilingual Learner Education Programs, PK - 12 at (978) 420-1933, Zachary Eldridge, Dean of Foreign Languages Department at Haverhill High School at (978) 374-5700, or Meghan Greco at (978) 374-5700.

Sincerely,

Margaret Marotta

Margaret Marotta, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

