November 27, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Class of 2024:

Shrewsbury Public Schools values the diversity of our school community. In our district, we are fortunate to have many students who can speak more than one language. The dedication and commitment involved in advanced language study is significant, and we’d like to acknowledge students’ efforts more publicly. In order to highlight the benefit of multilingualism and to promote sustained English language, native language, heritage language, and global language learning, we are pleased to inform you of Shrewsbury Public School’s participation in the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy for the 2023-2024 School Year and beyond. 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. According to the [Massachusetts Department of Education](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/biliteracy/?section=guidance#guidance), 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.\*

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. Earn level 4.2 (overall score) and a minimum 3.9 (composite literacy score) on ACCESS Testing for ELL’s

(b) Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in a world language through one of the following:

1. Attaining a minimum score equivalent to Intermediate-High on a state approved assessment (AAPL or ALIRA).
 or
2. For languages that do not have readily available assessments, completing a portfolio demonstrating Intermediate-High proficiency in speaking, writing, reading, and listening.

The chart below summarizes the awards and the criteria for the state award. Please note that some state universities will reward credits according to the results of your language exam. Please speak with your child’s school counselor for more information.

| **Pathway Award** | **Standardized Assessment Criteria for English and Partner Language** |
| --- | --- |
| MA State Seal of Biliteracy With Distinction | Score of *Advanced* on the grade 10 ELA MCASScore of [*Advanced - Low*](https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012) in the lowest domain/mode of a proficiency test |
| MA State Seal of Biliteracy | Score of *Proficient* on the grade 10 ELA MCAS Score of [*Intermediate-High*](https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012) in the lowest domain/mode of a proficiency test |

If your child will be enrolled in a Level V, V Honors or AP World Language class in the 2023-24 school year, she/he/they will have the opportunity to take this proficiency test in January (Seniors) and June (Juniors) of 2024. If your child is NOT enrolled in a World Language class and you or she/he/ they believe(s) that her/his/their language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) meet the criteria of [*Intermediate High*](https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012) your student may still be eligible for testing during the week of February 5. Kindly complete this [Registration Form](https://forms.gle/4RxkzK9qkjWCgGxy7) by December 21 and contact me should you have any questions.

We look forward to honoring the language expertise and diversity in our district through this initiative.

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