

Recommendations
Seal of Biliteracy - Levels of Distinction & Criteria

Three levels of distinction beginning at ACTFL Intermediate Mid

Level	English Criteria	WL Criteria
Level 1	MCAS Proficient or competency determination	ACTFL Intermediate-Mid
Level 2	MCAS Proficient	ACTFL Intermediate-High
Level 3	MCAS Advanced	ACTFL Advanced-Low and above

Why three award levels?

- Reward different levels of language proficiency and emphasize the ongoing process of language learning.
- Offering a multi-tiered award structure is recommended in the national Guidelines for Implementing the Seal of Biliteracy (ACTFL 2015) and is identified in research on the Seal of Biliteracy nationally as a way to create an inclusive award pathway with opportunity for diverse learners (Heineke & Davin 2018, Borowczyk et al 2018).
- Other states with multi-tiered awards: Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Why starting at ACTFL Intermediate Mid Level?

COLLEGE CREDIT

American Council on Education: “ACTFL assessments have been favorably reviewed by the American Council on Education (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service. This means that students who have proficiency in many world languages may have the opportunity to be awarded college credit for that competency, whether they learned the language in a classroom or non-classroom setting.

- Intermediate Mid - 6 lower division credits
- Intermediate High/Advanced Low - 9 lower division credits”

Source: <https://www.languagetesting.com/american-council-on-education>

- Most colleges and universities accept an AP score of 3 or above -- which is equivalent to ACTFL Intermediate-Mid -- for college credit or to waive language requirements.
- UMASS Amherst - students can receive 3 credits for a score of 3 on the AP exam.
- UMASS Lowell - students can waive the language requirement by scoring Intermediate Mid on a language proficiency test.

Source: <https://www.uml.edu/FAHSS/Languages-Cultures/MLP.aspx>

WORKPLACE PROFICIENCY

- At the Intermediate-Mid level, a speaker has the proficiency to work as firefighter, utilities installer, auto inspector, aviation personnel, missionary, tour guide, cashier, sales clerk, or receptionist.

Source: ACTFL Oral Proficiency Levels in the Workplace

https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/TLE_pdf/OralProficiencyWorkplacePoster.pdf)

- A study by the European Commission showed that 40% of European employers seek workers with a B1 or B2 range of language proficiency in the the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). B1 correlates with ACTFL Intermediate-mid.

Source: Study on Foreign Language Proficiency and Employability

http://www.erasmusplus.sk/kniznica/publikacie/Final_Report.pdf

NATIONAL GUIDELINES & PRACTICES

- The national guidelines for the Seal of Biliteracy were developed in 2015 by four national professional organizations representing language educators: The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), the National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE), the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSSFL), and TESOL International Association.

- The national guidelines established the minimum standard for the Seal of Biliteracy award at Intermediate-Mid on the ACTFL Proficiency Scale (ACTFL 2015).

LACK OF LANGUAGE PROGRAMS IN MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS

- World Language: The graduation requirements for Massachusetts public high schools range from 0 to 8 years of foreign language study. Of the 351 schools, 198 (56.4%) require each student to study a foreign language for at least 1 year in order to graduate, while 153 schools (43.6%) have no foreign language requirement for graduation. The most common requirement, at 160 of the 198 schools with a graduation requirement, is 2 years. Only 4 high schools in Massachusetts require all students to study 2 different foreign languages, and these are the only schools that require more than 4 years of study. Source: MassLang: The Lexplorers Survey of Foreign Languages Taught in Massachusetts High Schools, <http://lexplorers.com/ma-hs-foreign-language/>

- Dual Language: 10 districts have Two Way Immersion programs, and only 3 districts have TWI programs that extend through high school. 7 districts have One Way Immersion, with only 1 that extend through high school.

**Seal of Biliteracy Pilot Data Analysis
August 2018**

The Seal of Biliteracy Pilot Project started in the 2015-16 school year and continued for three years, through June 2018.

Districts Awarding the Seal of Biliteracy

- **Year 1: 6 districts made awards**
 - Boston, Falmouth, Framingham, Melrose, Wilmington, Winchester
- **Year 2: 13 districts made awards** (6 continuing, 7 new)
 - New: Brockton, Chelsea, Newton, Norwood, Pittsfield, Wayland, Westwood
- **Year 3: 26 districts made awards** (13 continuing, 13 new)

Educators Participating in SoBL Google Group

- **171 educators** from different districts and language program types as of 8/9/18

Pilot Award Levels

Award	ACTFL Proficiency Level	Grade Level	Notes
Bilingual Participation	Novice – high	Elementary, Middle & High School	Pathway award used in early childhood, elementary school, and Students with Disabilities
Bilingual Attainment	Intermediate – low	Elementary, Middle & High School	Pathway award used in elementary & middle school to encourage students to pursue language study in high school and Students with Disabilities
Silver Seal	Intermediate –mid	Middle & High School	
Gold Seal	Intermediate –high	Middle & High School	
Platinum Seal	Advanced – low	High School	



Language Opportunity

Massachusetts Language Opportunity Coalition

Messaging importance of language learning

- District with most Seal awards all 3 tiers at High School: Newton -144
- District with most Seal & pathway awards all 5 tiers: Framingham – 394
- Districts with awards multiple tiers in multiple grade levels – 7
 - Boston, Duxbury, **Falmouth, Framingham**, Hingham, **Melrose, Salem**
- Districts include additional/optional portfolios, e.g., using language in authentic community service: Brockton

Languages of Awards

- Spanish is the dominant language in all districts
- Other languages: French, Portuguese, Hebrew, Mandarin, French, Arabic, Marathi, Urdu, Haitian Creole, Polish, Latin, German, Italian, Tagalog, Urdu, Cantonese, Korean, Bengali, Arabic, Hausa, Thai, Russian, ASL, Hungarian, Dutch, Luganda
- Districts offered awards to students for proficiency in more than one language – 22 of 25
- Districts with most language variety:
 - Newton - 20: French, Portuguese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Latin, Korean, Italian, Hebrew, Bengali, Arabic, Hausa, Thai, Russian, ASL, Hungarian, Dutch, Luganda, Swedish, Turkish, Greek
 - Framingham –9: Portuguese, Hebrew, Mandarin, French, Arabic, Marathi, Urdu, Haitian Creole

Language Programs

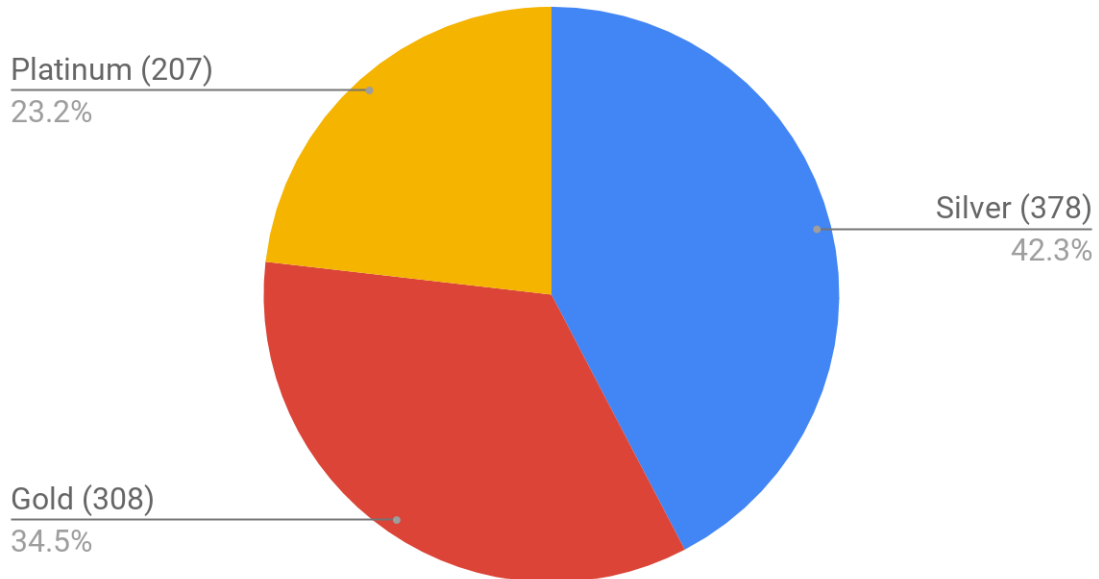
- Students earning awards participated in a variety of language programs: World Language, Dual Language, Transitional Bilingual, SEI, ESL, and Online Middlebury
- District with most variety of programs: Framingham

World Language Assessments: STAMP, AAPPL, AP, Aprenda, LAS, ALIRA, Portfolio, Years of education in native country

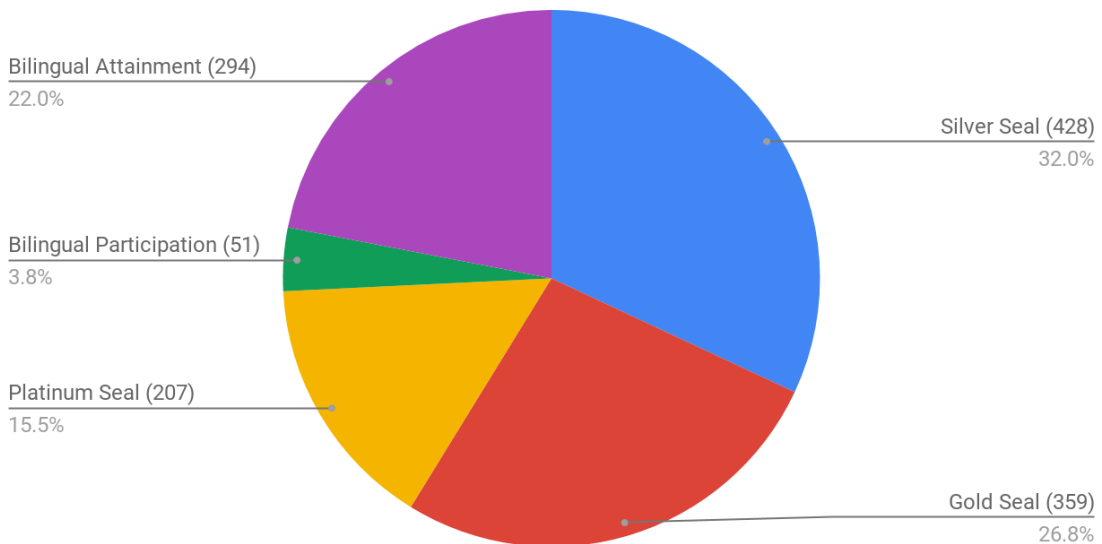
Number of FEL and Ever ELs: 152

- Arlington, Boston, Chelsea, Duxbury, Framingham, Newton, Norwood, Pittsfield, Tewksbury, Upton, Wayland, Weston

2018 Seal of Biliteracy Awards - High School



2018 Seal of Biliteracy & Pathway Awards - All Grade Levels



Multi-tiered Awards

Bilingual Participation – beginner-high

Total: 51

- Framingham 51 students
 - Barbieri DLE
 - Wilson IB/TBE
 - Brophy GE
 - Fuller Middle School WL

Bilingual Attainment – Intermediate-low

Total: 294 from 7 districts of 24 districts reporting

- Salem 4
- Boston 1
- Duxbury 4
- Framingham 200
 - Barbieri TWI
 - Brophy SEI, GE, FEL
 - McCarthy SEI, Opt out EL
 - Wilson SEI, GE
 - Walsh Middle School TWI, WL
 - Fuller Middle School WL
 - Cameron Middle School SEI, GE, FEL
 - Framingham High School TWI, SEI, WL, FEL
- Melrose 62
 - Melrose Middle School WL
- Hingham 7
 - Hingham High School WL
- Falmouth 16
 - Falmouth Middle School WL

Silver Seal – Intermediate –mid

Total: 431 from MS & HS (large districts include multiple MS & HS) **or 381 from HS**

- Framingham 47, example of award from middle and high school
 - Walsh Middle School TWI (22), WL (3)
 - Cameron Middle School GE (4), FEL (3),
 - Framingham High School TWI (1), SEI (1), WL (7)
- Boston 53, example of high school award different programs
 - Brighton High School WL – 3
 - Excel High School WL – 1
 - Muniz Academy TWI - 25



Language Opportunity

Massachusetts Language Opportunity Coalition

Gold Seal – Intermediate –high

Total: 359 from MS & HS or

321 from HS (large districts include multiple HS)

- Framingham 48, example of award from middle and high school
 - Walsh Middle School TWI - 6
 - Cameron Middle School SEI (3), GE (10), FEL (4)
 - Framingham High School TWI (5), SEI (1), WL (16), FEL (3)

Platinum Seal – Advanced – low

Total: 210 HS only

- Framingham 49, example of high school different programs
 - Framingham High School TWI (18), SEI (8), WL (17), FEL (6)
- Boston 11, example of TWI only
 - Muniz Academy

Year 3 Results of # of Awards for Seal of Biliteracy

District	Silver	Gold	Platinum
1. Acton-Boxboro	6	9	6
2. Arlington	18	23	22
3. Boston	29	21	11
4. Brockton	4		
5. Harvard-Bromfield School	28	22	11
6. Chelsea	6	11	1
7. Duxbury	13	11	1
8. Falmouth	4	9	4
9. Framingham	47	48	49
10. Hamilton-Wenham	23	9	5
11. Hingham	28	32	16
12. Medford	3	13	3
13. Mendon-Upton	2	9	
14. Melrose	24	4	2
15. Monson	13	2	
16. Newton	67	37	40
17. Norwood	5	7	7
18. Pittsfield		18	9
19. Salem	11	7	5
20. Sheffield	2	3	
21. Tewksbury	1	6	1
22. Upton	2	9	
23. Wayland	32	9	2
24. Weston	7	36	3
25. Wilmington	3	3	4
26. Winchester	57	13	2
TOTAL	435	371	210