Massachusetts
Seal of Biliteracy Pilot Project

The **Seal of Biliteracy** recognizes graduates who speak, listen, read and write proficiently in another language in addition to English with a seal on their high school diploma. The goal of establishing the Seal of Biliteracy is to promote long term language study and producing a biliterate, multicultural workforce.

During the 2015-16 school year, educators from across Massachusetts came together to launch a Seal of Biliteracy Pilot Program at the local level, as we await approval of a state Seal of Biliteracy by the state legislature.

A workgroup was formed through the Language Opportunity Coalition — consisting of educators from English language learner, bilingual, dual language, and world language programs — to develop a Seal of Biliteracy Toolkit with guidelines and resources for implementation in Massachusetts. The guidelines, based on practices in place in other states, established four Seal of Biliteracy Pathway Awards that recognize different levels of proficiency in two languages, from Intermediate Low to Advanced Low, and are designed to encourage students to continue on the journey to attaining biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy Toolkit was distributed to schools and school districts interested in joining the pilot project, and educators communicated throughout the year via an E-list to address emerging issues related to the implementation.

The first Seal of Biliteracy Awards were presented in Massachusetts in the spring of 2016. Additional school districts plan to join the pilot in the 2016-16 school year.

2016 Seal of Biliteracy Awards

300+ Award Recipients

19 Platinum Seal of Biliteracy (Advanced-Low)

55 Gold Seal of Biliteracy (Intermediate-High)

208 Silver Seal of Biliteracy (Intermediate-Mid)

32 Biliteracy Attainment Award (Intermediate-Low)

8 School Districts

- Andover, Arlington, Boston, Falmouth, Framingham, Melrose, Wilmington, and Winchester, Massachusetts

11 Language Learning Programs

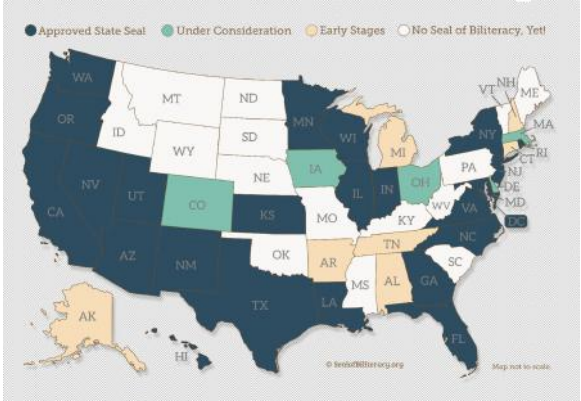
- Middle and high school World Language programs
- Elementary and middle school Two-Way Immersion (TWI) and Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) programs

Data collected by the Language Opportunity Coalition

Benefits of the Seal of Biliteracy

- ✓ Motivates students to pursue long-term language study and develop of a high level of proficiency.
- ✓ Provides evidence to universities and businesses that graduates have attained bilingualism and biliteracy, a critical skill in the global economy.
- ✓ Already approved in twenty-four other US States — see www.SealofBiliteracy.org
- ✓ Benefits students of all language backgrounds.

State That Have Enacted Seal of Biliteracy Legislation



Language Opportunity
Massachusetts Language Opportunity Coalition

www.LanguageOpportunity.org