

Pathway to Biliteracy Award



Language 
Opportunity

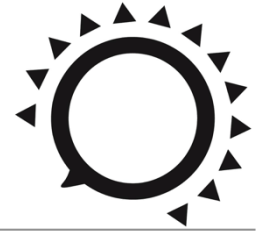
Massachusetts Language Opportunity Coalition

What is the Seal of Biliteracy?



The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school or district in **recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in two or more languages by high school graduation.**

How were you chosen?



First / Primary Language is English

You met or exceeded the criteria on ELA PARCC last year (4+).

Your World Language teacher believes you are making progress towards becoming proficient in another language.

First / Primary Language is Spanish, Portuguese, French, Haitian, and so on.

You exited the ESL program, or you placed into Level 4.5 or higher on ACCESS last year.

The first language you learned, or the language spoken at home, is one other than English.

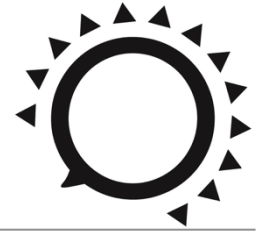
Why Should Students Learn a Second Language?



Research shows that becoming bilingual has long-term cognitive, cultural and economic benefits.

Children who are learning two languages and who have a familiarity with one or more cultures different from their own have the **advantage of understanding the viewpoint of others and recognizing the importance of communicating effectively** when tackling issues across the globe.

Civil Rights Project – CA Labor Market Survey 2012



“ In every industry, **bilingualism was a desirable trait for some or all positions.** Overall about 66% of the employers responded that they would prefer a bilingual employee over a monolingual English speaker if they were comparable in other respects. There was some variation by job sector.”

So what's next?

May 4th: 8th grade essay contest



On a day to be determined between May 5th and June 1st, you will be asked to **respond to the same essay prompt in another language**. If you are learning Spanish or French, you will write in that language at your level, including a reduced amount of writing expected. If your first / primary language is one other than English, you will write in that language.

You will then **read your response to a panel of teachers and staff who speak the language fluently**. They will **ask** you questions about your essay in that language and you will **respond** in that language.

Your proficiency in **reading, writing, speaking, and listening** will be measured using the ACTFL Can-Do Rubric.