



The class of 2020 was the first class at Medfield High School to graduate with the Massachusetts state seal of biliteracy. The seal was signed into law by Governor Baker in 2017. The World Languages and Cultures Department in Medfield has been established as a proficiency based program and therefore aligned with goals of the Seal of Biliteracy for several years. However, we adopted the program and the assessment in 2019.

The Seal of Biliteracy is “... an award given by a school, school district, or state in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. Our vision is to help students recognize the value of their academic success and see the tangible benefits of being bilingual.” (<https://sealofbiliteracy.org/>) Students are assessed on their ability to communicate in English and at least one other language through their interpersonal speaking skills, their writing skills, and their interpretive (reading and listening) skills. There is a requirement of proficient rating (MCAS) in English and Intermediate High (proficiency test ex. AAPPL) in a second language.

Last year in our first year of awarding the seal, Medfield recognized 39 seal recipients. Recently, the state Department of Education recognized Medfield as one of 23 high performing districts. All 23 districts that were recognized awarded the seal to at least 10% of their graduating seniors. We were proud to award the Seal of Biliteracy to 19.2% of last year’s graduating class. The World Languages and Cultures department in Medfield is encouraged and excited by the enthusiasm that the Seal of Biliteracy has created for the value of bilingualism and the study of languages and cultures.