



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

April 8, 2020

Dear Seal of Biliteracy Coordinators,

The Office of Language Acquisition thanks you for your dedication to biliteracy, even in the time of physical distancing. Many districts' scheduled World Language assessments were interrupted by new and unforeseen health advisories. The Department will offer the following flexible options for districts who seek to award the Seal of Biliteracy to the Class of 2020. Please note, that these flexible options apply **only** to 2020 graduates.

- Districts may postpone testing, even after the scheduled date of graduation. The final World Language testing results must be received by **July 9, 2020** in order for the district to report Seal status on SIMS.
- Several frequently-used World Language assessments can be administered completely online *in students' homes* with proctors in remote locations and/or AI proctors. The Department will support the decision of districts who wish to take advantage of this form of assessment. For the Department's purposes, any approved assessment that offers a test-from-home option is valid. See the [Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy website](#) for the full list of approved assessments. As of March 30, 2020, the assessments that offer test-from-home options that satisfy **all four domains of World Language** are as follows:

- STAMP (AVANT)
- AAPPL (LTI) – This includes ALIRA for Latin.

The above-named tests satisfy the World Language criteria for the following languages:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------|
| ○ Arabic | ○ Hindi | ○ Portuguese |
| ○ Chinese
(Mandarin) | ○ Italian | ○ Russian |
| ○ French | ○ Japanese | ○ Spanish |
| ○ German | ○ Korean | ○ Thai |
| ○ Hebrew | ○ Latin | |
| | ○ Polish | |

- Any language that does not appear on the list above qualifies for 100% portfolio assessment. If the district chooses this option, it is the responsibility of the student to find a credible authority in the language to rate the portfolio artifacts. See portfolio guidelines on the [Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy website](#).

If you have any further questions regarding the Seal of Biliteracy, please call Andy McDonie at 781-338-3541 or email him at d.andrew.mcdonie@mass.gov.

Thank you,

The Office of Language Acquisition Team