DESE World Languages Newsletter

February 2020, Vol 2, No 1

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# From the Office of Language Acquisition

Greetings from DESE. It is an exciting time for World Languages in the state. The new standards are in the adoption and adaptation process right now. The Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy is in its second full year. In November, educational leaders attended the first ever World Language Leadership Network Meeting and are invited to rejoin us in April. The Commonwealth is about to celebrate its first annual Linguistic Heritage Month in April. The Massachusetts Foreign Language Association named a new World Language Teacher of the Year, and one of our very own Massachusetts teachers won National World Language Teacher of the Year. The future of world language education in Massachusetts is bright!

We in the Office of Language Acquisition would like to thank you for the hard and important work that you do in this field. You are a critical and irreplaceable part of a high-quality education. Thank you for your knowledge, passion, and diligence. I wish you a happy 2020!

# Update on the Update: Revising the World Languages Framework

In my home, the exact date of the beginning of the new decade is a contested topic. My wife contends that it began this January. I disagree. As a graduating member of the Class of 2000, I was constantly reminded by my slightly younger friends that the new millennium would technically begin the following year. My class received all the attention, but the facts were with the Class of 2001. I maintain that we remain at the end of the current decade, and not at the beginning of the next one. January 2021 will hail the new decade, and fittingly, that same month will also welcome the adoption of the new Massachusetts World Languages Framework.

The process to produce the new framework is rigorous. DESE laid the groundwork for that process in 2019 by commissioning the Center for Applied Linguistics to study our 1999 standards, our current practices, the most recent research, and the existing world language frameworks throughout the country. Based on that study, the Department chose to create a new framework, which adopts and adapts the ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages. The Massachusetts world language teaching field, supported by research and the practice of other states, clearly indicated that ACTFL’s framework was too valuable and too ubiquitous to ignore.

In the summer of 2019, DESE established a plan for the revision, which includes the formation of three external teams – facilitators, review panelists, and content advisors. Out of nearly two hundred extremely qualified candidates, ten facilitators were chosen in early October, based on their experience, their understanding of the ACTFL standards, their outside training in those standards, and expertise in the different ACTFL focus areas (the 5 Cs). In December, an 11th facilitator was added as a student representative to the facilitation team. The facilitators were tasked with creating the philosophical parameters of the framework, including the vision and the guiding principles, as well as leading the teams of review panels. In the early stages, the facilitation team decided that Social and Emotional Learning standards as well as Social Justice education could seamlessly and easily be incorporated into the World Language standards. Consequently, we are pleased to announce that the forthcoming standards will be more than the ACTFL standards – they will be enriched with SEL and social justice practices.

In December, the facilitators also formed the Review Panels. The review panelists are composed of teachers of many different languages, representing urban, suburban, and rural districts throughout every region of Massachusetts. It is the responsibility of these panels to analyze the existing ACTFL standards and making any modifications, additions, or reductions for the sake of clarity. They will additionally seek to modify standards to adjust to varying proficiency levels and to enrich with SEL or social justice goals. The panels are tasked with submitting their finalized version of the standards to DESE by May of this year.

Andy McDonie is the Language Acquisition Support Specialist for World Languages at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Feel free to contact Andy with questions or concerns regarding World Languages and the State Seal of Biliteracy in Massachusetts.

Phone: 781-338-3541

Email: D.Andrew.McDonie@mass.gov

Click here to join the [DESE World Language Mailing List](https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5191929/World-Languages-Mailing-List)

The final team of Content Advisors has yet to be confirmed. This team of educators specializes in important fields within or adjacent to world languages – elementary education, special education, classical languages, ASL, non-alphabetic languages, heritage speakers, assessment, and social and emotional learning. Working with a World Language vendor (TBD), these teams will analyze the standards produced by the review panels for inclusivity and actionability in their specialized focus area. After they have provided input to DESE, they will continue to inform Quick Reference Guides that the Department will distribute during the implementation phase of the standards.

We are pleased to announce that this project is currently on track. We foresee a public comment period this fall, and we believe that the new framework will be adopted by the Board of Education on time in January of 2021.

I am excited about the work ahead of us in 2020. We have a stellar team of facilitators and reviewers. We will have an equally impressive team of content advisors later this winter. The road ahead of us is not easy, but the

 path is clear. When the new decade finally rolls around, we will be ready for it. More importantly, we will ensure that our students are ready for that decade and all the decades that follow. Happy New Year, and if you celebrated the new decade this year, Happy New Decade too. The new framework and I will join you in that celebration next year.

# Preparing for the Upcoming Framework

**DESE Tips to Prepare for the New Framework**

* **Don’t wait.** You don’t have to have the new framework to prepare for the new framework.
* **Familiarize yourself with the national standards.** The new standards will be based off [the 2015 World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages](https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/publications/standards/World-ReadinessStandardsforLearningLanguages.pdf). An investment in understanding the national framework is an investment in understanding the upcoming Massachusetts framework.
* **Get emotional.** Social and emotional learning (SEL) that is. The new world language framework will be enriched with social and emotional learning principles as presented in [CASEL’s framework](https://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CASEL-Competencies.pdf). You can get acquainted with that framework now.
* **Social Justice.** Along with SEL, the new framework will be enriched with Social Justice principles. ACTFL has done some work around this topic. Recommended reading: Glynn, C., Wesely, P. M., Wassell, B. A., & Osborn, T. A. (2018). *Words and actions: teaching languages through the lens of social justice.* Alexandria, VA: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.
* **Invest in Communicative Professional Development.** The new standards are based on a communicative methodology. You don’t have to wait to learn more about implementing 90% target language, meaningful tasks, and proficiency-based assessments in your classes. This might be a major paradigm shift for your district. You can get ahead of it by preparing now.
* **Get involved.** Come to the April 8th DESE World Language Leadership Network Meeting to hear how others have transitioned to proficiency-based programs. World Language Leadership Network Meetings section below for more information.

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# The Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy

In its second year of implementation, over 130 districts (and counting) have expressed their intent to participate this year. See the full list on page 8. In order to better meet the needs of the students, teachers, and staff throughout Massachusetts, DESE has recently clarified some policies regarding the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy. Please make not of the following changes.

* English learners may use ACCESS scores (4.2 overall and 3.9 in literacy) to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy, provided that the qualifying score is earned after the beginning of 9th grade.
* LTI has added an OPI for Cape Verdean Creole. This may replace the speaking portion of the portfolio for Cape Verdean.
* Avant WorldSpeak is now an approved assessment to fulfill the speaking and reading requirements for several less commonly taught languages.
* In order to meet the World Language criteria for the Seal using the AAPPL or STAMP assessments, students must score I5 or higher (AAPPL) or 6 or higher (STAMP) in all domains. Composite scores will no longer be accepted for either of these assessments.
* The Seal may be applied retroactively if assessments taken during high school do not receive scores until after graduation.

Please refer to [the Seal of Biliteracy website](http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/biliteracy/) for more information.

# April is Linguistic Heritage Month

**We Want Your Feedback**

Whether your district participated in the Seal of Biliteracy in 2019 or not, we want to know your thoughts and how we can serve you better. Please take 10 minutes to fill out [this survey](https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5411772/Seal-of-Biliteracy-Survey) to help us improve the Seal experience. Please send us your responses by 2-29-2020.

DESE is excited to announce a first of its kind event. This April, we will be recognizing Linguistic Heritage Month. The theme of the first annual Linguistic Heritage Month is ***You’re in America. Speak up****!* The purpose of this month is to:

1. Recognize and celebrate linguistic diversity in Massachusetts
2. Dispel stigmas associated with speaking other languages or speaking English with an accent, and
3. To encourage multilingual students of Massachusetts to certify their linguistic skills with the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy.

Throughout the month of April, DESE invites you to celebrate the benefits that your multilingual students and staff contribute to your school district, as we celebrate our own linguistically diverse agency internally. DESE will provide participating districts with ideas for celebrating linguistic heritage in diversity in schools and classrooms. We will also highlight districts who are already celebrating linguistic diversity on our social media, and we will honor some of the students who have already met the assessment criteria for the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy. To stay up to date on this celebration, please make sure to join the [DESE World Languages mailing list](https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5191929/World-Languages-Mailing-List).

# Voices from the Field: The Seal of Biliteracy at Blackstone Valley

Academic teachers in technical high schools are always trying to make connections between what our students learn in their academic classrooms and the career skills they learn in their shops. In my opinion, the language classroom is one of the easiest places to make those connections. Is there any field where being biliterate *wouldn’t*be useful? If you can communicate in another language, you will make more connections, can assist more clients, are more employable, more versatile, etc. But it helps to be able to prove your skills. At BVT, our students have the opportunity to acquire many certifications, from ServSafe to graduating with a CNA license, and it has been advantageous to also be able to offer a credential in biliteracy. It’s one thing to put on an application that you are “conversational” in another language, and it’s another to have the Seal to back up your claim. It was easy to convince our administration to support our implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy because, in a school system that focuses on preparing students for their careers, the Seal is just one more credential that helps set them up for future success.

Kerry Moynihan

World Language Team Leader

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School

My name is Sebastián, and I recently graduated BVT and am now attending WPI. The Seal of Biliteracy is something that I have greatly benefitted from earning. It has helped me show the colleges I was applying to and any potential employers that I am biliterate in both English and, in my case, Spanish. Both native speakers like myself as well as students who learned Spanish at school would greatly benefit from earning the Seal of Biliteracy, as it helps prove that you do indeed have a fluency in another language, and is far more effective in proving that than if you don’t have anything to show for it. It is also more effective than AP credits, since AP credits are more common and will stand out less. On top of that, some people may know a language that there is not yet an AP test for. Since the Seal of Biliteracy is not restricted to any specific language, it’s possible for anyone who is multilingual to be able to prove it through earning the Seal of Biliteracy.

Sebastián Vázquez

BVT Graduate 2019

Seal of Biliteracy recipient 2019

Would you like to share your district’s experience with the Seal of Biliteracy? Send a 100-150 word blurb to andy.mcdonie@doe.mass.edu, and you might be featured in our next newsletter!

# World Language Leadership Network Meetings

On November 5, 2019, over 200 World Language leaders and district administrators from across the Commonwealth met together for the Bay State’s first ever World Language Leadership Network Meeting. Participants learned about DESE’s updates regarding world languages, engaged with panels who have been implementing the State Seal of Biliteracy, and collaborated to sketch out their own implementation plan for the Seal. DESE would like to thank all who attended this meeting, and would like to offer our special thanks to our panelists:

* **Dana Curran**, World Language Program Director, Bedford Public Schools
* **Eddie Evans**, Academic Curriculum Coordinator, Blackstone Valley RVTHS
* **Michelle Huaman**, World Languages Liaison, Worcester Public Schools
* **Nancy Marrinucci**, World Language Department Chair, North Newton High School
* **Anne McKenzie**, Superintendent, Hadley Public Schools
* **Tricia Moloney**, World Language Department Chair, Nipmuc Regional High School
* **Kerry Moynihan**, Spanish Teacher/Electives Department Team Leader, Blackstone Valley RVTHS
* **Amy St. Arnaud**, Curriculum Coordinator of World Languages, North Reading High School
* **Anna Tirone**, Director of World Languages and Cultures, Winchester Public Schools

DESE would like to invite your district World Language leaders to join us again in Devens on April 8th, as we discuss the new standards and specifically the proficiency-based strategies that your district can implement right now to prepare for those standards. Districts in Worcester County and west should plan on attending the afternoon session from 12:30-3:15 PM. Districts east of Worcester County are invited to join us in the morning from 9:00-11:45 AM. Come and hear the MaFLA World Language Teacher of the Year talk about why she teaches for proficiency, how Duxbury Public Schools transitioned their whole department to a proficiency-based approach, and how the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association can support teachers and districts who are moving toward proficiency. [Reserve your spot by registering here](http://www.doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=10071).

# Recognizing Outstanding World Language Educators in Massachusetts

 Massachusetts is fortunate to have an extremely talented pool of world language educators. We would like to recognize three world language teachers who have been recognized for contributing to their students and their profession. DESE congratulates Ashley Uyaguari, Janel Lafond Paquin, and Rebecca Blouwolff.

**Janel Lafond Paquin**

2019 MaFLA Distinguished Service Award

**Ashley Uyaguari**

Spanish Teacher, Innovation Academy

2020 MaFLA Teacher of the Year

**Rebecca Blouwolff**

French Teacher, Wellesley Middle School

2019 MaFLA Teacher of the Year

2020 ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year

Janel, Ashley, and Rebecca, congratulations on being honored by your colleagues for your work, and thank you for the passion, dedication, and wisdom that you provide for your colleagues, districts, and students.

# Professional Development and Scholarship Opportunities

We are pleased to note the upcoming professional development opportunities for World Language educators.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Date | More Information |
| \*OWL: Foundations – Chelmsford High School | Feb 12 | [Organic World Language](https://owlanguage.com/events/owl-foundations-half-day-training-chemlsford-ma/)  |
| \*MaFLA Core Practices Seminars – Boston University | March 13-14 | [MaFLA](https://mafla.org/events/core-practices-seminars/) |
| \*Idioma Education & Consulting - Online | March 23 – May 1 | [Idioma](https://www.idiomaconsulting.com/)  |
| DESE World Language Leadership Network Meetings – Devens, MA | April 8 | [Network registration](http://www.doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=10071) |
| \*Not a DESE function. DESE does not endorse or hold any official opinion of these opportunities. This is only to make educators aware that the events are occurring. |

Do you know of any World-language professional development events on the horizon? Email andy.mcdonie@doe.mass.edu to share the announcement with your colleagues.

# Study in France this Summer

The French embassy is offering dozens of scholarships for three different French teacher trainings in France. Please follow the below two links to learn more and contact noah.ouellette@diplomatie.gouv.fr if you have any questions.

* <http://frenchlanguagek12.org/french-foreign-language/teacher-training/5467-2020-spcd-summer-programs-france>
* <http://frenchlanguagek12.org/french-foreign-language/teacher-training/5483-stage-belc-2020-universite-dete>

The deadline to apply is March 9th.

# Study in Spain this Summer

**Language and Culture Courses and Masters at Universities in Spain.   Summer 2020**

The Spanish Education Office has partnered with renowned universities across Spain to offer three masters and nine courses at very affordable prices during the Summer of 2021. These activities are specifically designed for US and Canadian educators and administrators seeking to update their language skills, teaching methodologies or even to get to know Spain and its wonderfully diverse culture.

More info at: [https://tinyurl.com/w46udo9](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__tinyurl.com_w46udo9&d=DwMF-g&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=VGn7Sp8qSIBLQHDbZIDDehJ6N6AfJm-67QKg5qKUDYM&m=mJH4cDphCyyKudb-wO9reVVwtacCgqOnjKm7qA-FdDs&s=kqSKhWmAhLvW3eNy4lCS046y0mEgMaC65qYrz4Bfebk&e=)

Prices include registration fees and full board accommodation

**The application period is now open**. **Due date:** **March 27, 2010**

**COURSES.**

**UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ** (Madrid) A *world to discover in Spanish language. A world for reviving in Spanish language* Dates: July 6-24, 2020 info@alcalingua.com Price: 1,700

**UNIVERSIDAD DE ALICANTE** *Teaching Spanish for social justice and critical citizenship Dates:* July 6-24, 2020spanish@csidiomas.ua.es Price: 1,700€

**UNIVERSIDAD DE CASTILLA LA MANCHA** (Toledo) *Spanish Language and Culture*

Dates: June 22-July 10, 2020vic.internacional@uclm.es Price: 1,700€

**UNIVERSIDAD DE DEUSTO-BILBAO** *Experience Spanish Language and Culture: New Resources for the classroom* Dates: July 6-24, 2020 cide@deusto.es Price: 1,700€

**UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA** *Spanish Language and Culture*: Teaching Methods and the Art of Teaching Dates: July 6-24, 2020 juliet@clm.ugr.es Price: 1,730€

**UNIVERSIDAD DE HUELVA** *Spanish Language and culture* Fechas: Del 29 de junio al 17 de julio de 2020 direccion.slm@uhu.es Precio:1700€

**UNIVERSIDAD DE SALAMANCA** *Varieties of Spanish as a Heritage Language*. Dates: July 1-21, 2020 cpusa@usal.es Price:1,750€

**UNIVERSIDAD DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA** *Language and Culture Course. The Way of Saint James* Dates: July 6-24, 2020 gene.gonzalez@usc.es Price: 1,700€

**UNIVERSIDAD DE VIGO** *Teaching and learning Spanish language and culture* Dates: July 6-24, 2020 malvarezp@uvigo.es Price: 2,150€

**MASTERS**

**UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ - Madrid** *Master’s degree in teaching of Spanish language and cultures for primary and secondary teachers* Part I: June 29 to July 24, 2020 Part II: June 28 to July 23, 2021 info@alcalingua.com info.masterelecuprof@uah.es Price: 2,600€ per year

**UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA** *Master’s Degree in Teaching/Learning the Spanish Language and its Culture* Dates: Part I: June 29to July 31, 2020 Part II: June 28to July 30, 2021

Price: 2,450€per year.

**UNIVERSIDAD DE SALAMANCA** *Master’s degree in Spanish Language and Culture*. Dates: Part I: June 29 –July 31, 2020 Part II: Summer 2021 cpusa@usal.es Price: 2,479€ per year

Full list of courses and details. [https://tinyurl.com/wx5s3b7](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__tinyurl.com_wx5s3b7&d=DwMF-g&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=VGn7Sp8qSIBLQHDbZIDDehJ6N6AfJm-67QKg5qKUDYM&m=mJH4cDphCyyKudb-wO9reVVwtacCgqOnjKm7qA-FdDs&s=1EYfFWJ-v4lNvasQlMkmerBR1NgKJU8H6QImM5PnRJY&e=)

For more information contact: cursosprofesores.usa@educacion.gob.es

# Seal of Biliteracy Participating Districts

**In its first year of implementation, 83 districts opted into the Seal of Biliteracy. 2019 participants include:**

Acton Boxborough

Andover

Ashland

Barnstable

Bedford

Belchertown

Berkshire Hills

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical

Boston

Brockton

Cambridge

Chelsea

Danvers

Dudley-Charlton Reg

Duxbury

Edward M Kennedy Academy for Health Careers

Excel Academy Charter

Falmouth

Fitchburg

Foxborough

Foxborough Regional Charter

Framingham

Freetown-Lakeville

Gill-Montague

Global Learning Charter Public

Groton-Dunstable

Hadley

Hamilton-Wenham

Harvard

Haverhill

Hingham

Holliston

Holyoke

Hopkinton

Ipswich

Lawrence

Lee

Lexington

Littleton

Lowell

Lynn

Marshfield

Martha's Vineyard

Maynard

Medford

Melrose

Mendon-Upton

Milford

Millis

Newton

Norfolk County Agricultural

North Attleborough

North Reading

Norwood

Pentucket

Pioneer Charter School of Science

Pioneer Valley

Pittsfield

Quincy

Randolph

Salem

Salem Academy Charter

Sharon

Silver Lake

South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical

Southern Berkshire

Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District

Spencer-E Brookfield

Springfield

Stoughton

Tewksbury

Waltham

Wayland

Wellesley

West Bridgewater

Westborough

Weston

Westport

Westwood

Wilmington

Winchester

Winthrop

Worcester

**In the second year, over 40 new districts have opted in. DESE would like to welcome the following districts to the Seal of Biliteracy:**

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

Advanced Math and Science Academy

Agawam

Amherst-Pelham

Auburn

Boston Collegiate Charter (District)

Carver

Chelmsford

Chicopee

Clinton

Cohasset

Dartmouth

Dedham

Dracut

Everett

Fall River

Frontier Regional

Grafton

Hudson

Lincoln Sudbury

Lunenburg

Manchester Essex Charter School

Marlborough

Mashpee

Medfield

Millbury

Nashoba

Nauset

Newburyport

Northampton-Smith Vocational Agricultural

South Hadley

South Shore Charter

Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School

Stoneham

Sutton

Tantasqua

Taunton

Triton

Wachusett

Wakefield

Walpole

Ware

Watertown

West Springfield

Westford

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical

Woburn

Is your district not on the list? To opt into the Seal of Biliteracy, email your intent to MAStateSealofBiliteracy@doe.mass.edu .