**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS ON MASSACHUSETTS CERTIFICATE OF MASTERY AND STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY,**

**603 CMR 31.00**

* Presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for initial review and vote to solicit public comment: **April 26, 2022**
* Period of public comment through: **June 3, 2022**
* Final action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education anticipated:

**June 28, 2022**

# The proposed amendment would establish new standards for the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award and the State Seal of Biliteracy for students in the classes of 2026-2029.

# The proposed amendment is indicated by underline (new language) and strikethrough (deleted language) in 603 CMR 31.03 through 31.07. For the complete text of the current regulations, 603 CMR 31.00, see [603 CMR 31.00: Massachusetts Certificate of Mastery and State Seal of Biliteracy - Education Laws and Regulations](https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr31.html?section=all)

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| **603 CMR 31.00: Massachusetts Certificate Of Mastery And State Seal Of Biliteracy** |

31.03: Criteria for the Certificate of Mastery

Beginning with the students in the Class of 2009, to be eligible for a Certificate of Mastery, a student must earn a competency determination and:

1. Meet one of the following criteria:
2. For members of the classes of 2009 through 2025, ~~A~~achieve a scaled score of at least 240 or its equivalent on the grade 10 English Language Arts and Mathematics MCAS by February 1st of the year in which the student graduates. Alternate tests and equivalent scores may be determined by the Department in guidelines on the Certificate of Mastery.
3. For members of the classes of 2026 through 2029, achieve a score of Meeting Expectations or its equivalent on the grade 10 English Language Arts and Mathematics MCAS by February 1st of the year in which the student graduates. Alternate tests and equivalent scores may be determined by the Department in guidelines on the Certificate of Mastery.

(2~~b~~) Complete high school with a grade point average equal to or greater than any minimum grade point average established by the Department in guidelines for the Certificate of Mastery.

(3~~c~~) Achieve the passing standard on any test identified by the Department to establish proficiency in Algebra II or more advanced mathematics.

(4~~d~~) Demonstrate proficiency in writing through an assessment identified for this purpose by the Department.

(5~~e~~) Meet one of the following criteria:

(a~~1~~) Complete a high school curriculum designed to prepare students for college and career readiness, or a designated Early College or Innovation Pathway program, consistent with any standards established by the Board.

(b~~2~~) Earn a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency, under the requirements found in 603 CMR 4.14(2)

31.04: Criteria for Candidacy for the Certificate of Mastery with Distinction

In order to qualify as a Candidate for the Certificate of Mastery with Distinction, a student must ~~score~~ meet one of the following criteria:

1. For members of the classes of 2009 through 2025, score "Advanced" or its equivalent on at least one grade 10 MCAS test subject, and score "Proficient" or "Advanced" or their equivalent on the remaining subjects tested in the grade 10 MCAS.
2. For members of the classes of 2026 through 2029, score Exceeding Expectations on at least one grade 10 MCAS test subject, and score Meeting Expectations on the remaining subjects tested in the grade 10 MCAS.

31.05: Criteria for the Certificate of Mastery with Distinction

(1) To be eligible for the Certificate of Mastery with Distinction, a student must:

(a) qualify as a Candidate for the Certificate of Mastery with Distinction;

(b) demonstrate accomplishment in both Arts/Humanities and Mathematics/Science; and

(c) be in good standing to graduate from the high school in which the student is enrolled.

(2) To qualify for the Certificate of Mastery with Distinction, a Candidate for the Certificate of Mastery with Distinction must submit evidence establishing that he or she met or surpassed the performance standards established in 603 CMR 31.05(3) in one of the ~~following~~ combinations of accomplishments listed below. For a member of the classes of 2009 through 2025, at ~~, with at~~ least one accomplishment must be in the fields of Art/Humanities if the Candidate did not score Advanced or its equivalent on the grade 10 English Language Arts MCAS, and at least one accomplishment in the fields of Mathematics/Science if the Candidate did not score Advanced or its equivalent on the grade 10 Mathematics or Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS. For a member of the classes of 2026 through 2029, at least one accomplishment must be in the fields of Art/Humanities if the Candidate did not score Meeting Expectations on the grade 10 English Language Arts MCAS, and at least one accomplishment in the fields of Mathematics/Science if the Candidate did not score Meeting Expectations on the grade 10 Mathematics or Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS:

(a) Two SAT II exams;

(b) Two AP exams;

(c) One SAT II exam and one AP exam;

(d) One SAT II exam and one Other Achievement; or

(e) One AP exam and one Other Achievement.

(3) To qualify as an accomplishment for the purposes of 603 CMR 31.05 (1) and (2), a student must meet or exceed the following levels of performance:

(a) A score of three on an AP exam;

(b) A score on an SAT II exam determined by the Department to be comparable to a score of three on an AP exam where there exist SAT II and AP exams in the same subject area; provided that, in subject areas where there are no corresponding AP exams, a student must achieve a score designated by the Department;

The Department shall review and publish the required minimum scores for all SAT II exams every three (3) years.

(c) A Candidate may not count both an AP exam score and an SAT II exam score in the same subject area as accomplishments for the purposes of 603 CMR 31.05~~4~~(2).

(d) Other Achievements shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Intel Science Talent Search Competition winner;

2. Regional, State or National Science Fair winner;

3. Publication of writing in a competitive publication (e.g., The Concord Review);

4. Selection for activity, beyond local school level, based on excellence in artistic or literary achievement (e.g., Greater Boston Youth Symphony, Boston Ballet, prize in Art Competition);

5. Additional achievements as approved by the Department.

(4) The Department shall issue guidelines to schools defining the Certificate of Mastery and Certificate of Mastery with Distinction application process. The Certificate of Mastery and Certificate of Mastery with Distinction will be awarded to students annually on a schedule to be determined by the Department.

31.06: Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery with Distinction Award

A Student who fulfills the requirements of 603 CMR 31.05 will receive the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery with Distinction Award.

31.07: Criteria for the State Seal of Biliteracy

(1) School District Participation in the State Seal of Biliteracy Program.

(a) School districts may award the State Seal of Biliteracy to students who meet the academic criteria listed in 603 CMR 31.07(2).

(b) A school district participating in the State Seal of Biliteracy program shall provide written notification to parents or legal guardians of all students enrolled in the district about the State Seal of Biliteracy program, its purposes, and eligibility requirements, in a language that the parent or legal guardian can understand.

(c) A school district that awards the State Seal of Biliteracy shall affix the unaltered state insignia developed by the Department on the diploma or the transcript, or both, of students who meet the requirements listed in 603 CMR 31.07(2).

(2) Criteria. To qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy, a student must meet all graduation requirements and the criteria listed in 603 CMR 31.07(2)(a) and (b).

(a) Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English by satisfying one of the following:

1. The English Language Arts requirement of the Competency Determination described in 603 CMR 30.03(2)(a); or

2. The English Language Arts requirement of the Competency Determination described in 603 CMR 30.03(3)(a); or

3. The English Language Arts requirement of the Competency Determination described in 603 CMR 30.03(4)(a); or

4. Students who are required to complete an Educational Proficiency Plan pursuant to 603 CMR 30.03(2)(b), ~~or 603 CMR~~ 30.03(3)(b) or 30.03(4)(b)\_to satisfy the requirements of the Competency Determination must attain a minimum score or level on a nationally recognized and readily available English proficiency assessment approved by the Department. The Commissioner shall determine the minimum score or level, which shall be comparable to the minimum scaled score on the grade 10 English Language Arts MCAS required to satisfy the requirements of the Competency Determination under 603 CMR 30.03(2)(a), ~~and 603 CMR~~ 30.03(3)(a), and 30.03(4)(a).

(b) Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in a foreign language through one of the following:

1. Attaining a minimum score or level on a nationally recognized and readily available assessment approved by the Department that measures literacy in a language other than English. The Commissioner shall determine the minimum score or level, which shall be aligned to higher education standards for awarding advanced credit by examination and ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.

2. An alternative evidence method established by the Department in guidance.

(3) The Department shall annually publish a list of approved assessments and acceptable minimum scores or levels for purposes of 603 CMR 31.07(2)(a)~~3~~4. and 603 CMR 31.07(2)(b)1.

(4) The Department shall establish levels of distinction for the State Seal of Biliteracy in guidance.

(5) School districts must ensure that low-income students as described in M.G.L. c. 70, § 2 have access to any assessment required to qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy at no cost.

(6) Implementation and Reporting.

(a) A school district that awards the State Seal of Biliteracy shall maintain a record of all students who have earned the seal and the assessment results used to substantiate the student's biliteracy.

(b) Each school district shall report annually to the Department the names of all students who earned the State Seal of Biliteracy.

The remaining sections of the regulations are unchanged. **For the complete text of the current regulations, 603 CMR 31.00, see**

[603 CMR 31.00: Massachusetts Certificate of Mastery and State Seal of Biliteracy - Education Laws and Regulations](https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr31.html)