**Additional Information for the World Languages Proficiency-based Outcomes Grant**

The Language Opportunity for Our Kids (LOOK) Act of 2017 authorizes the Seal of Biliteracy in Massachusetts for students who have attained high levels of proficiency in English and at least one other language. The Department recognizes the challenges and the opportunities that face districts as they prepare students to receive this award and potentially reap lifelong personal and professional benefits of credentialed biliteracy. In support of districts seeking to credential their students’ skills in a language other than English, the Department seeks out and approves readily-available, high-quality, proficiency-based World Language assessments in a variety of languages. The Department also revised the World Languages framework to align with and support the proficiency levels required to earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

The Seal of Biliteracy program and the revised World Languages framework provide the need and the opportunity for districts to review their World Language programs, to collect objective, proficiency-centered data, and to modify programs to ensure that students are using the language rather than learning about the language. Success, both in the Seal of Biliteracy and in the implementation of the World Languages framework, relies upon the district’s ability to teach for proficiency. This includes teaching all levels of World Languages almost exclusively in the target language, implementing assessments (both vendor and locally-created) that assess proficiency over knowledge, and centering students in their experiences in the language-acquisition process.

It is incumbent upon districts to support World Language programs and teachers as they navigate these substantial changes. The Department wishes to support districts in that endeavor by providing funding to achieve those outcomes.