*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 135 Santilli Highway, Everett, Massachusetts 02149-1962 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

March 7, 2024

Dear Seal of Biliteracy Graduate,

Congratulations on your accomplishment! As a graduate who has obtained the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy, you join an elite group of young adults who are recognized as being able to work, study, and thrive in one or more languages in addition to English. We at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) celebrate your success and share your loved ones’ pride for you and your multilingual skills.

The Department would like to encourage you to continue to use your multilingual and multicultural skills in future endeavors. Whether you are planning on attending a post-secondary institution, entering directly into the workforce, serving in the armed forces, investing in your family or community, traveling, studying, or living abroad, or simply taking some time to celebrate your success, we encourage you to seek out opportunities to use your language skills to advance yourself and your community.

**We would like to invite you to consider a career in education**, where you can use your language skills to become a multilingual role model to our linguistically diverse students in schools and classrooms throughout the state. Many students throughout the Commonwealth may never see a teacher that reflects their own language, culture, and identity. They are waiting on teachers like you! We ask you to consider sharing your language skills in a world language class, an ESL class, a bilingual program, or any other area of public education. To that end, **DESE is pleased to award you with a voucher to take a Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) at no cost to you.** You may choose to apply this award to either the *Communication and Literacy* MTEL or the *Bilingual Education* MTEL*.* To take advantage of this offer, please email MAStateSealofBiliteracy@mass.gov at least three months prior to taking the MTEL.

Once again, congratulations on your achievement in earning the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors, and a bright and full future!

Sincerely,

Andy McDonie

World Languages Lead, Office of Language Acquisition

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education