



NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Pursuant to its authority under M.G.L. c. 69, §§ 1B and 1Q, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 3, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) is soliciting public comment on proposed amendments to 603 CMR 31.04, the regulations on State Seal of Biliteracy (603 CMR 31.00, Certificate of Mastery and State Seal of Biliteracy).

The proposed amendments to 603 CMR 31.04 align with the change in state law relating to the competency determination, establish updated criteria, streamline procedures for schools and districts, and clarify terminology.

Copies of the proposed amendments are available on the Department's website at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/reqs-comments/default.html>, or at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsreqs/>, or by calling 781-338-6585. Public comments may be submitted online by completing this form <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8533019/Proposed-Amendments-to-Seal-of-Biliteracy-Regulations-2025>, or by email to mastate seal of biliteracy@mass.gov or by mail to: Regulations Public Comment, c/o Commissioner's Office, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA 02149. The deadline to submit public comment is **Friday, December 5, 2025, at 5:00 pm**. The Board is expected to vote on the proposed amendments at its regular monthly meeting in **January 2026**.



Small Business Impact Statement Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §2

This statement accompanies the filing by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the proposed amendments to 603 CMR 31.04, the regulations on State Seal of Biliteracy (603 CMR 31.00, Certificate of Mastery and State Seal of Biliteracy).

The proposed amendments to 603 CMR 31.04 align with the change in state law relating to the competency determination, establish updated criteria, streamline procedures for schools and districts, and clarify terminology.

1. The proposed amendments do not affect small businesses.
2. Since the proposed amendments do not affect small businesses, the following considerations are not applicable:
 - a. Reporting, record keeping or other administrative costs required of small businesses for compliance associated with the amendments.
 - b. Appropriateness of performance standards vs. design standards.
 - c. Regulations of this agency or any other state agency, which may duplicate or conflict with the proposed amendments.
 - d. Analysis of whether the proposed amendments are likely to deter or encourage the formation of new business in the state.

Submitted by:

Rhoda E. Schneider, on behalf of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: _____