



**Empowering World Language  
Teachers:**

# **Advocating for World Language Programs**



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# My positionality

- I was born in Brazil and also have Portuguese and Japanese ancestry
- Taught PreK-8th grade Portuguese as a World Language at a Catholic School
- Taught 5th grade and High School Portuguese as a World Language at Charter Public School
- Initiated the SoBl and a middle school world language program at the 5-12 Charter School
- Doctorate in Educational Leadership focusing on providing more equitable opportunities for students to be able to attain multilingualism through interdisciplinary projects
- Currently a district administrator at New Bedford Public Schools; K-12 Curriculum, Data, Assessment Manager for World Languages



# Tips for advocating for your World Language Program

Persistency, persistency, persistency!!

Research/ data

Passion

Get involved

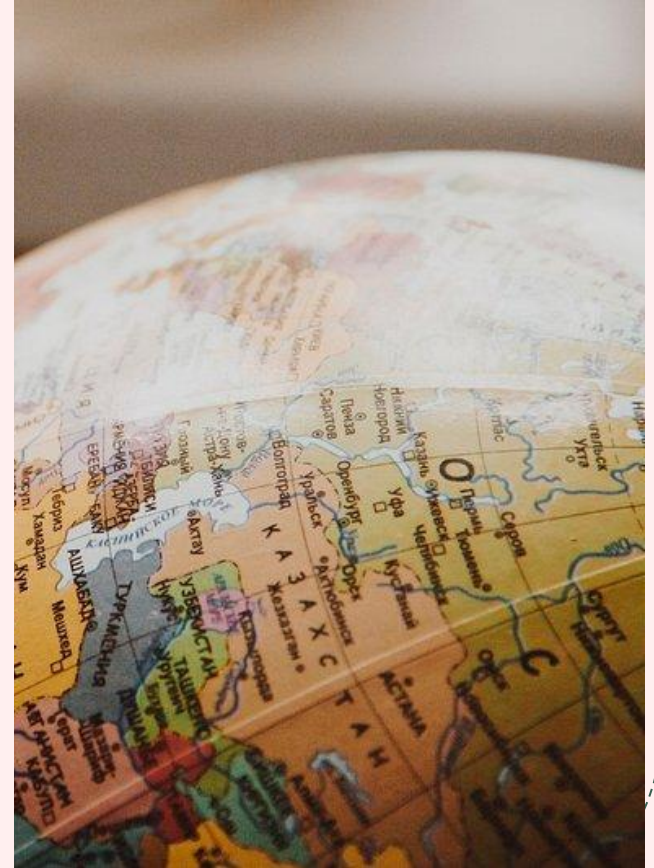
Look for and apply for GRANTS!

Did I say Persistency?

Clear end goals; Multilingualism/ SoBI

# Who are your stakeholders?

- Students
- Families
- Teachers of other contents/ grade levels
- School Administrators
- District Administrators
- Community partners
- Politicians



# Breakout Room Discussion

When thinking about World languages programs, what does engaging stakeholders look like to you?

- In your school/ district/ community
- In your current position

# Start with students & families!

## Students

- Constant reminder with authentic examples of the benefits and importance of being multilingual
- MA State Seal of Biliteracy
- Building the teacher pipeline

## Families

- Communication
- Out in the community
- MA State Seal of Biliteracy
- Family involvement events; cultural night, ELPAC, etc.

# Stakeholders

## School & District Administrators

- SEAL OF BILITERACY!!
- College credits & workforce pathways
- Reminding them of the benefits and importance of providing equitable opportunities for our students to reach a high-level of proficiency in additional languages
  - Scope & Sequence & feeder schools
  - The path to the SoBl starts in Kindergarten!

# Stakeholders

## Teachers of other contents & other departments

- Interdisciplinary lesson
- Guidance Department
- English Learner Department
  - Special Education

## Other community partners

- Libraries
- Community Organizations
- Local Politicians



# Stakeholders

## Politicians

- School Committee
- Local Politicians
- JNCL NCLIS
- State Politicians; programs and teacher pipeline

# Breakout Room Discussion

- How do the stakeholders in your school community view the MA State Seal of Biliteracy?
- How does this affect when language class offerings begin in your school/ district?

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# Get involved with Local, State & National Language Organizations

- MAFLA
- MA DESE
- ACTFL
- & many more!



# Thank You!

Do you have any questions?

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