



The New York State Seal of Biliteracy 2020-21 Summary Report



What is the NYSSB?

The NYSSB is an award given by a school, school district or county office of education in recognition of students who have attained a high level of proficiency in two or more world languages by high school graduation, one of which must be English. By offering the Seal, schools clearly state that proficiency in English and one or more world languages is a critical skill for their graduates. It takes the form of a Seal that appears on the student's diploma and a notation on the official transcript and graduation program. It can be accompanied by a medal, certificate, graduation cord or other regalia at the discretion of the school.

The NYSSB was passed by the Legislature and signed into law on July 31, 2012 behind the sponsorship of Senator Robach and Assemblywoman Arroyo. As of June 2021, over **17,600** students, including 1,000 current English Language Learners (ELLs) and 3,600 Former or Ever-ELLs, have earned the NYSSB in 59 world languages.



Total # of students who earned the NYSSB in

2020-21: **5,492**



3,780
(69%)



1,709
(31%)



93 students have earned the Seal in **TWO** world languages in addition to English!



4 students have earned the Seal in **THREE** world languages in addition to English!



English Language Learners (ELLs): **417 (8%)**

Former/Ever ELLs: **866 (16%)**

Never ELLs: - Home Language = English: **3,493 (64%)**

Never ELLs: - Home Language ≠ English: **716 (13%)**



of schools reporting data :

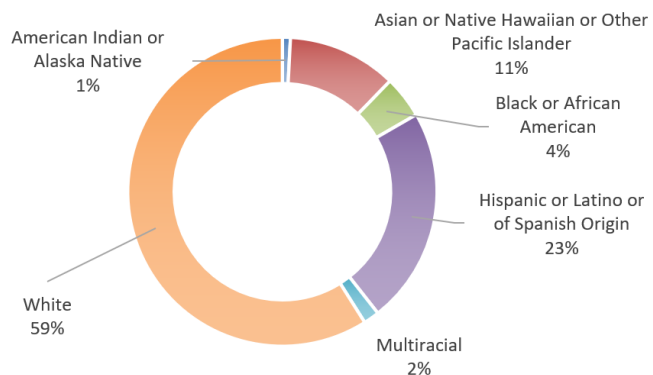
324



of languages in which Seals were earned:

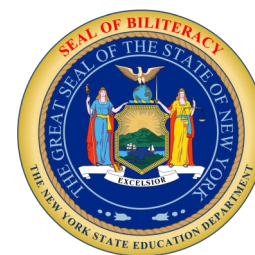
54

Racial/Ethnic Breakdown of Seal Earners



Albanian, American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Bisaya/Cebuano, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Chin (Myanmar), Chuukese, Danish, Dari, Farsi, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Guarani, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hausa, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Karen, Kinyamulenge, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Korean, Latin, Lingala, Maithili, Malayalam, Mandarin, Nepali, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Soninke, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu, Turkish, Tuscarora, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese

The NYSSB was offered for the first time as a pilot program in 2015-16.



Total # of students who have earned the NYSSB:

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
284	1,355	2,054	4,031	4,609	5,492

Total # of schools reporting data on the NYSSB:

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
14	84	115	228	292	324

Total # of languages :

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
9	33	39	47	58	54

What is the purpose of the NYSSB?

The purpose of the NYSSB is to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English.

Why should schools offer the NYSSB?

- To encourage students to study languages
- To recognize the value of language diversity
- To provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and skills
- To provide universities with a method to recognize and give credit to applicants for attainment of high level skills in multiple languages
- To prepare students with 21st century skills
- To honor the multiple cultures and languages in a community

How does a student earn the NYSSB?

- Complete all requirements for graduating with a NYS Regents diploma
- Using the state-approved matrix, students complete tasks from various choices to earn 3 points in English and 3 points in a world language. This criteria matrix can be found in both the NYSSB Handbook and on our NYSSB website listed below.

For more information on the NYS Seal of Biliteracy, visit the NYSED site:

<http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb>

and/or contact Candace Black at the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages at candace.black@nysed.gov, (518) 473-7505.



Office of Bilingual Education & World Languages
 Elisa Alvarez, Associate Commissioner
 Candace Black, World Language Associate

For more information on the New York State Seal of Biliteracy, please visit our [website](#).