



New York State
Seal of Biliteracy
(NYSSB)



The NYSSB for Counselors & Administrators

What is the NYSSB?

The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) is an award given to high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in the three modes of communication (Interpretive, Interpersonal, Presentational) in English and one or more world languages. The NYSSB encourages the study of languages, affirms the value of diversity in a multilingual society, and provides universities and future employers with additional information about applicants.

How does the NYSSB benefit students and schools?

The NYSSB acknowledges the importance of being bilingual in today's global society. It highlights the hard work and achievement of students, encourages them to maintain their home language, and pursue additional language study while in school. The recognition of attaining biliteracy becomes part of the high school transcript and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admission. All NYSSB earners will receive an official seal affixed to their diploma, a medallion to wear at graduation, and may also receive a certificate from the New York State Education Department. The NYSSB promotes and strengthens robust English and World Language programs. In addition, the NYSSB positively contributes to the school's "College, Career, and Civic Readiness (CCCCR)" score in the same way as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.

What role do administrators and counselors play on the Seal of Biliteracy Committee?

Administrators serve as the primary liaison with district leadership and the Board of Education on the NYSSB. Administrators can also provide assistance in gathering data on NYSSB candidates and securing funds and venues for celebrations.

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



Counselors have contact with students on a regular basis throughout their high school careers. As such, they are uniquely situated to develop a graduation plan with the student that includes the NYSSB. Counselors, in collaboration with students' classroom teachers, are the primary recruiters of NYSSB candidates and can also serve as the main point of contact with parents regarding the NYSSB. Ideally, counselors will identify English Language Learners, Heritage Language Speakers, and students enrolled in world language coursework early on in their high school careers and will encourage those students to continue their language development with the ultimate goal of achieving the NYSSB. Counselors will also ensure the NYSSB notation appears on the student's official transcript.

District Data Coordinators will provide the NYSSIS numbers for all potential NYSSB candidates to the Seal Coordinator in the fall of each year. They are also responsible for uploading all graduation measures into the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) at the end of each academic year. Seal of Biliteracy Coordinators report information on successful NYSSB candidates to NYSED and then provide the District Data Coordinators with the list of students who have earned the Seal. Data Coordinators then enter Program Service Code 8312 into SIRS for all successful NYSSB candidates or work with their Regional Information Center (RIC) or Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to do so.

What resources exist for counselors and administrators?

The [NYSSB website](#) has a number of resources, including the [NYSSB Guidance Toolkit](#), which contains a series of self-guiding modules. These modules, consisting of agendas, videos, presentation slides, and supporting documentation, can be used by district staff to implement, improve, or expand their NYSSB programs. For more information on the NYSSB, please contact the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) via email (nyssb@nysed.gov) or phone (518.473.7505) or visit our website: <http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb>.



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Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity