



New York State  
Seal of Biliteracy  
(NYSSB)



# The NYSSB for the Panel of Reviewers

## What is the NYSSB?

The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) is an award given to high school graduates who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency 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?

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 (CCCR)" score in the same way as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.

## What is the role of the Panel of Reviewers and who can serve on it?

The role of the Panel of Reviewers is to measure the student's proficiency in the target language through the evaluation of the Culminating Project, the student's presentation of the project, and an interview of the

student. Interview questions may address the presented topic, the student's process, their feelings about the topic, and other questions the Panel feels are necessary to measure the student's proficiency level.

The Panel of Reviewers must consist of at least two adult speakers of the language of the presentation, who are not related to the student. Panelists may be school staff, including the student's teacher, community members, local college and university faculty, or any other adult who is proficient in the language of the presentation. For assistance in finding speakers of lower incidence languages, please contact your local [Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network \(RBERN\)](#). If you are willing to serve as a panelist (in-person or remote) in for of these languages, please complete the [Seal of Biliteracy Panel Member Volunteer Form](#).

## Must Panel members speak the world language in which the student is presenting the Culminating Project?

Yes, in order to be able to understand and evaluate the student's project, as well as to interview the student in the target language, all Panel members must be proficient in the language of the presentation.

## Where can I find more information on the NYSSB?

The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) maintain a variety of resources for Panelists, including rubrics for the Culminating Projects that can be used for English and world languages and the [NYSSB Guidance Toolkit](#) that contains a series of self-guiding modules. Of particular interest to the Panel of Reviewers is [Module 5: Preparing for Panel Presentations](#).

For more information on the NYSSB, please contact the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages via email ([nyssb@nysed.gov](mailto: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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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity