[SCHOOL]

[DATE]

Dear Parents or Guardians,

We are pleased to inform you of a new initiative to acknowledge students who have studied and attained a high proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB), signed into law by Governor Cuomo, was established to recognize high school graduates who meet criteria established by the Board of Regents.

The intent of the New York State Seal of Biliteracy is to:

* affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society;
* encourage the study of languages;
* identify high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers;
* provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission;
* prepare students with twenty-first century skills; and to
* recognize the value of world and home language instruction in schools.

In order to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy, your student must meet all requirements for graduating with a Regents diploma and demonstrate a high level of reading, writing, speaking and listening in English and one other language. This other language could be a language used at home or one studied at school. Students who pursue the NYS Seal of Biliteracy must earn three points for each language area, as listed in the document: “Earning the New York State Seal of Biliteracy.”

You can learn more about the NYSSB by visiting this website: <http://www.nysed.gov/bilingual-ed/schools/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb>

Based on an initial review of criteria, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student):

\_\_\_\_\_\_ has met the initial requirements to achieve the New York State Seal of Biliteracy this year

\_\_\_\_\_\_ is close to meeting the initial requirements to achieve New York State Seal of Biliteracy this year

If your student wants to pursue the NYS Seal of Biliteracy, please complete the application on page 2 and return it school.

Application deadline:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Application deadline]

Please contact the person below with questions or for more information:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Contact person name and contact information]