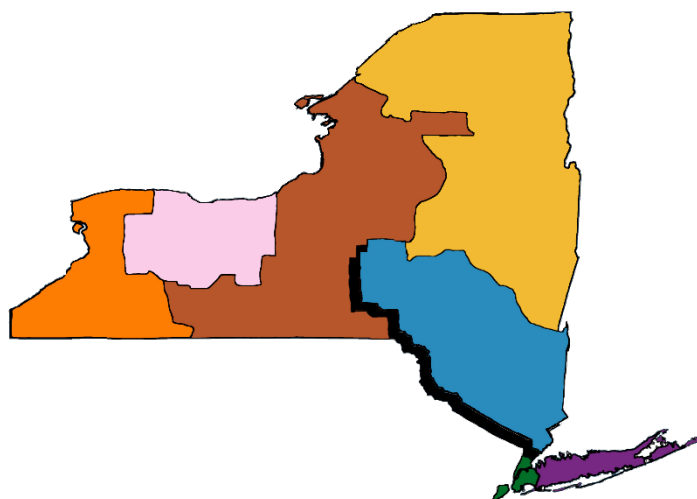
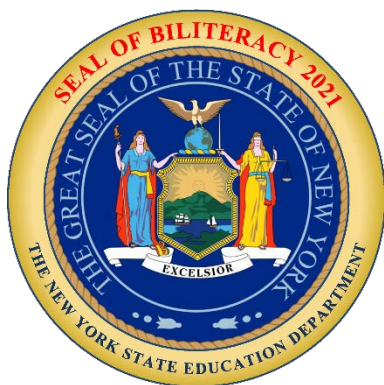


The New York State Seal of Biliteracy in the Hudson Valley Region



2020-21 Report

Office of Bilingual Education
and World Languages

New York State Education Department



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



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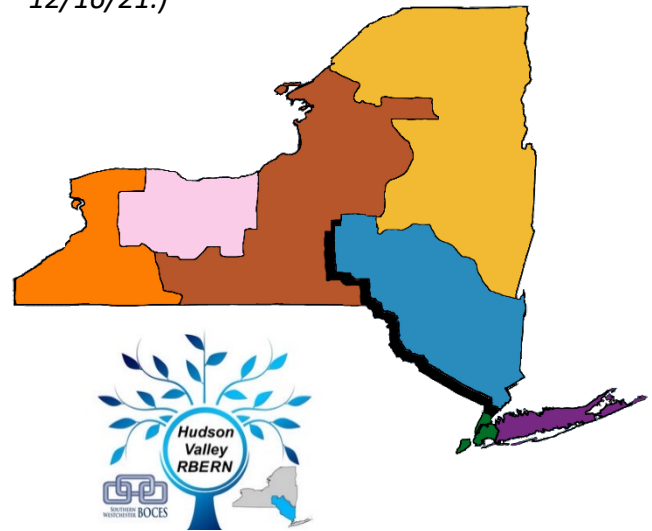
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The Hudson Valley Region

The Hudson Valley region, represented by the area in blue on the map on the right, is made up of the counties of Delaware, Dutchess, Orange, Otsego, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

The Hudson Valley region is supported by the Hudson Valley Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) at Southern Westchester BOCES. This RBERN provides services to 142 districts and works with colleges, communities, families, and other programs to meet the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) and the educators who serve them. As a NYS certified CTLE provider, the Hudson Valley RBERN provides professional learning and resources, including ELL-focused workshops, both in-person and online, and a curated digital resource library. The Hudson Valley RBERN also provides technical assistance and networking to strengthen community connections and educational partnerships across the region.

Figure 1. Map of New York State by Region with the Hudson Valley Region Highlighted (Image downloaded from: <https://www.nysrbernondemand.org/> on 12/16/21.)



Contacts

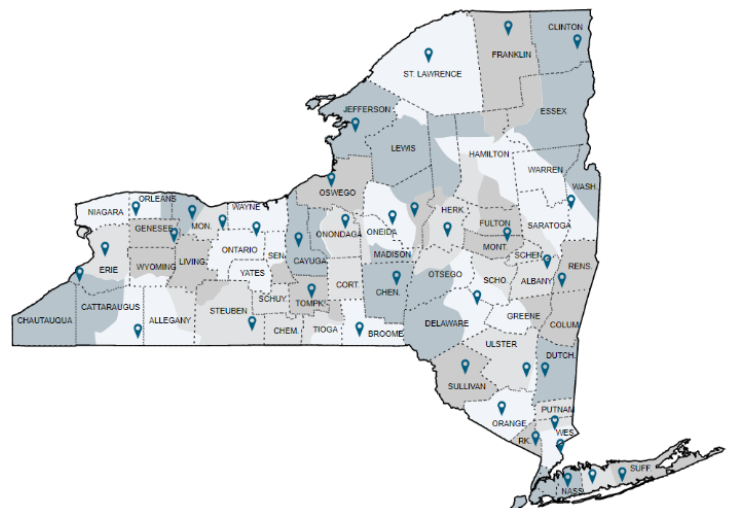
Hudson Valley RBERN at Southern Westchester BOCES
450 Mamaroneck Avenue, 3rd Floor, Harrison, NY 10530, (914) 345-8500 x3158
Website: <http://www.rbern.org>, Email: rbern@swboces.org

SUNY New Paltz – Satellite Office, (845) 257-6928 or 6929

This Hudson Valley region is also serviced by the following BOCES shown in Figure 2 below:

- [Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego Counties and BOCES](#)
- [Dutchess County and BOCES](#)
- [Ulster BOCES](#)
- [Sullivan BOCES](#)
- [Orange-Ulster BOCES](#)
- [Rockland BOCES](#)
- [Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES](#)
- [Southern Westchester BOCES](#)
- [Otsego-Delaware-Schoharie-Greene BOCES](#)

Figure 2. Map of New York State by County with BOCES Pinned (Image downloaded from: <https://www.boces.org/contact-a-boces/> on 12/16/21.)



An infographic summary of the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley region for 2020-21 can be found on the following two pages in Figure 3.


Figure 3. Infographic Summary of the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region (2021)




NYS Seal of Biliteracy


Hudson Valley Region 2020-21





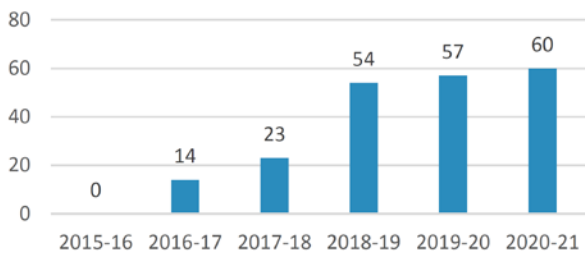
The New York Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) recognizes students from district, charter, and non-public schools who have attained a **high level of proficiency in two or more world languages** (one of which must be English) by high school graduation. It acknowledges the importance of biliteracy in today's global society.

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



The NYSSB carries the highest weight on a school's "[Readiness Measures](#)", on par with the NYS Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams. This includes current ELLs not in the graduation cohort earning the NYSSB and a Regents Diploma.

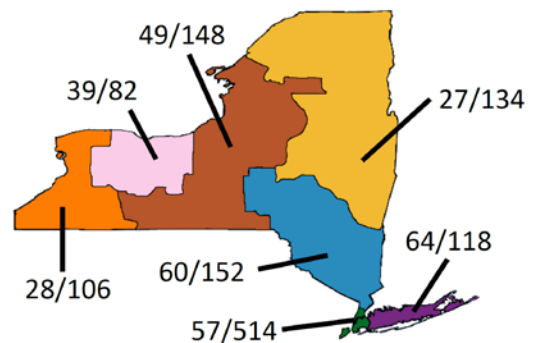
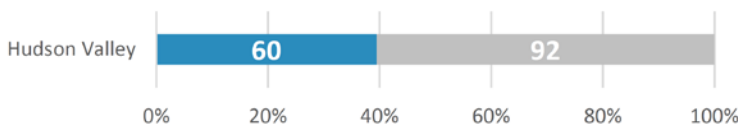
Number of Schools Offering the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region (2016-2021)



39.5%

of district schools in the Hudson Valley region offered the NYSSB in 2020-21.

Number of District Schools Offering vs. Not Offering the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region (2020-21)



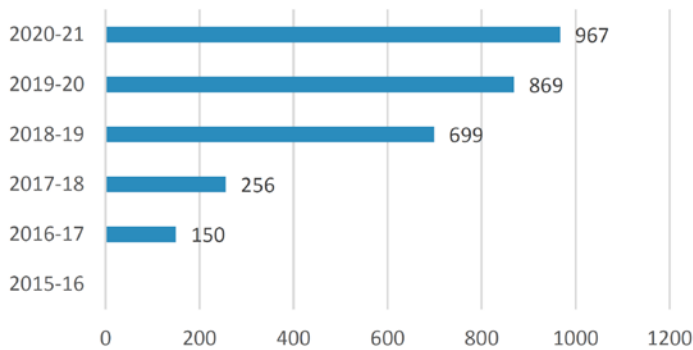
The ratios listed are the number of schools offering the NYSSB to the total number of district schools in the region.

Languages in which Hudson Valley students earned the NYSSB in 2020-21

Albanian, American Sign Language, Arabic, Danish, English, French, Greek, Guarani, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Maithili, Malayalam, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, and Ukrainian

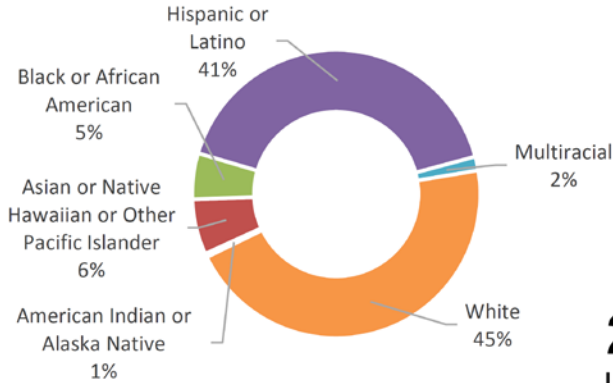
967 students from the Hudson Valley region earned the NYSSB in 2020-21.

NYSSB Earners in the Hudson Valley Region (2016-2021)



Despite the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, the number of students from the Hudson Valley region earning the NYSSB continues to increase.

Percentage of Students who Earned the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region by Race/Ethnicity (2020-21)

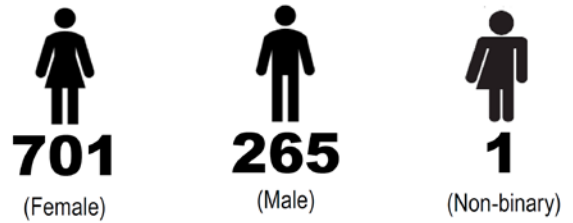


1 Student from the Hudson Valley region earned the NYSSB in **three** world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.



28 Students from the Hudson Valley region earned the NYSSB in **two** world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.

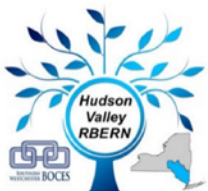
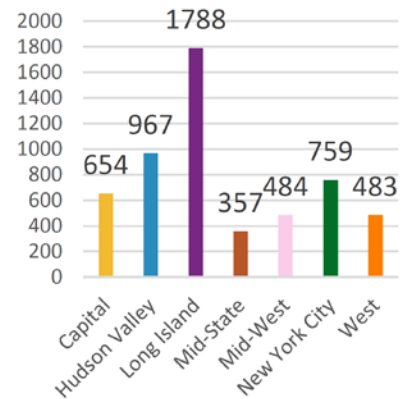
Seal Earners by Gender



Seal Earners by ELL Status

Current ELLs	53
Former/Ever ELLs	201
Never ELLs - Home Language = English	520
Never ELLs - Home Language ≠ English	193

Current ELLs are students who, by birth or ancestry, speak or understand a language other than English and who score below the designated level on the NYS English language proficiency assessment. **Ever ELLs** (includes Former ELLs) are students who were once ELLs, but who have demonstrated the NYS designated level of proficiency necessary to exit ELL status. **Never ELLs** are students who have never been identified as ELLs. A Never ELL's home language may be English or another world language.



Your local RBERN can also provide support for your Seal of Biliteracy Program.

Southern Westchester BOCES

450 Mamaroneck Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528, Tel: (914) 345-8500 x3158

Website: <http://www.rbern.org> Email: rbern@swboces.org

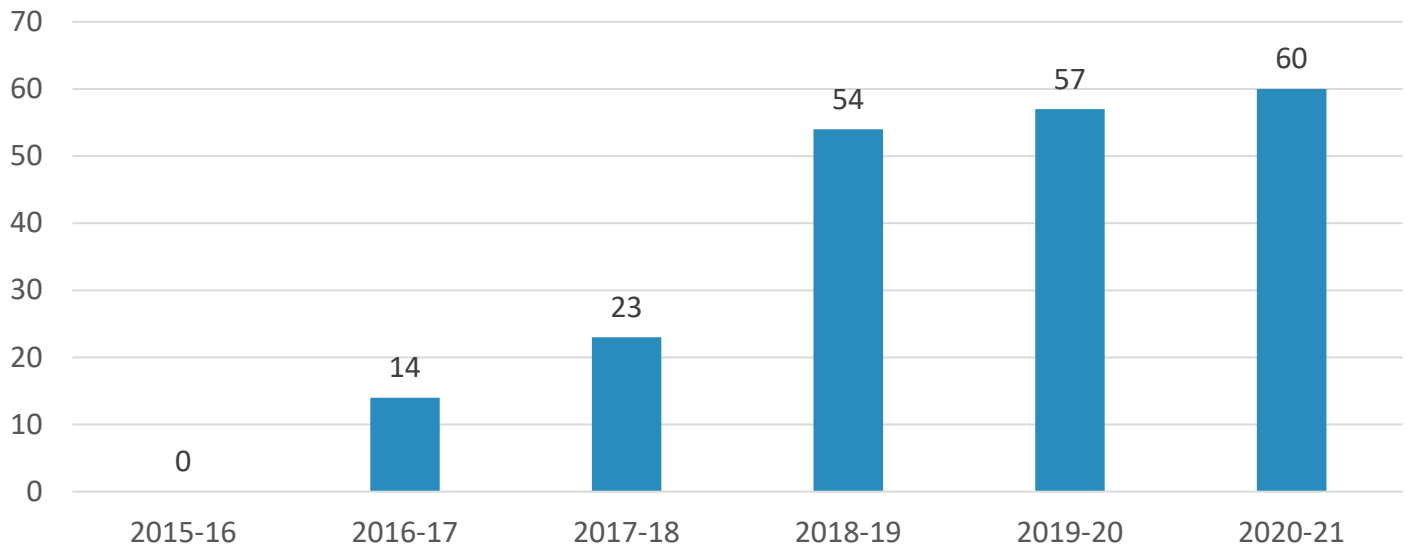


Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages, New York State Education Department
 NYSSB Website, Email: nyssb@nysed.gov

Schools that Offered the NYSSB

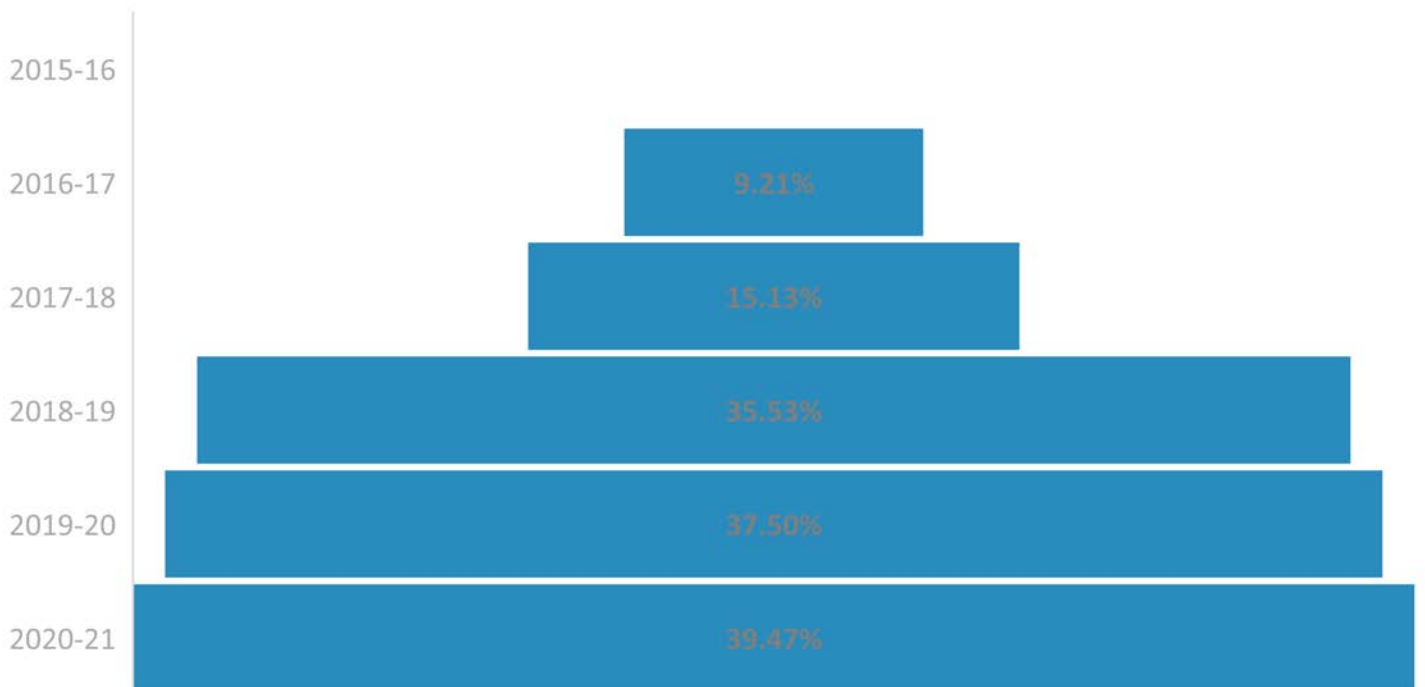
The number of schools in the Hudson Valley region that offered the NYSSB rose again in 2020-21 to 60 schools, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Growth in the Number of Hudson Valley High Schools Offering the NYSSB (2016-2021)



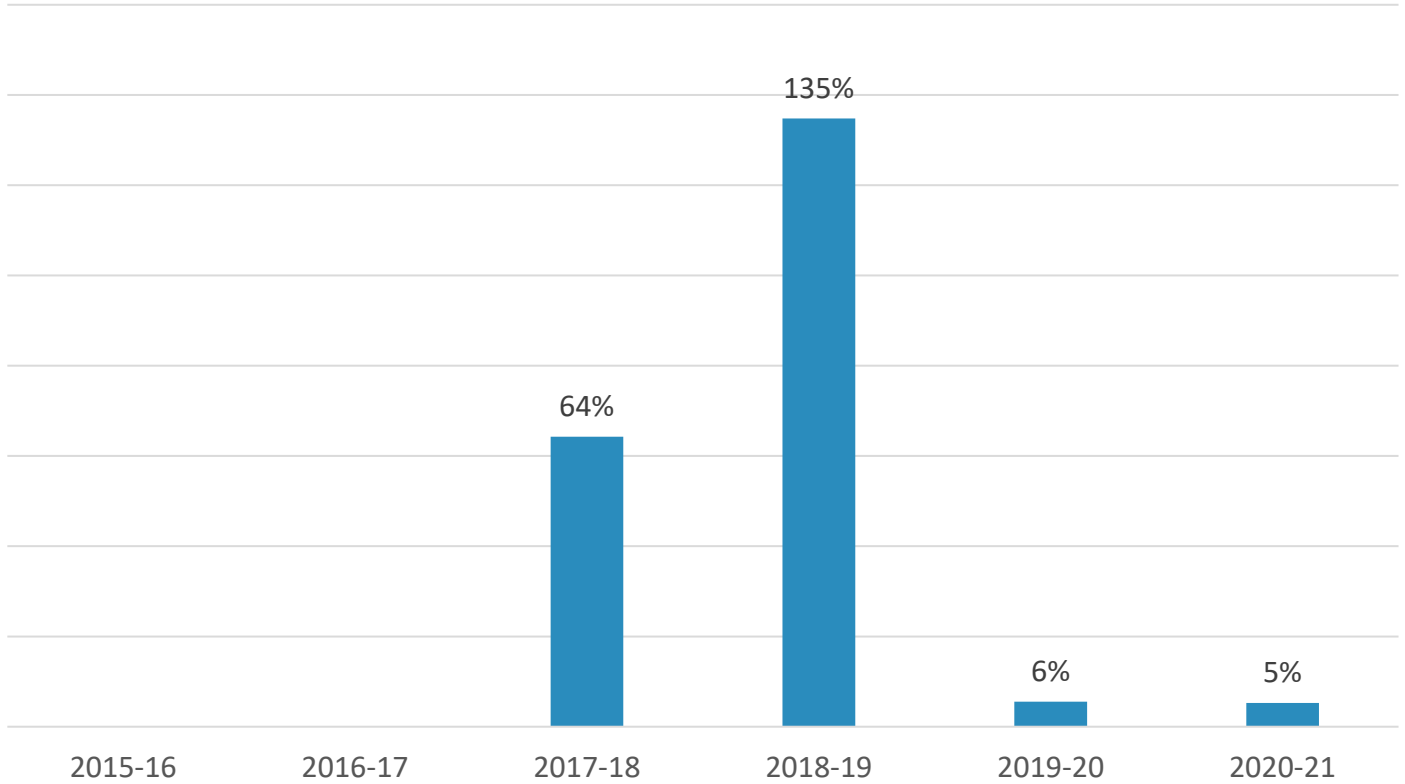
The 60 schools in the Hudson Valley region that offered the NYSSB in 2020-21 represent almost 40% of district high schools in the region, or one in every 2.5 district high schools. As demonstrated in Figure 5 below, the percentage of schools in the Hudson Valley region has experienced significant growth, from the first year the NYSSB was offered in 2015-16, starting just below 10% and growing to almost 40% in five years.

Figure 5. Hudson Valley NYSSB Schools as a Percentage of Total District High Schools in the Hudson Valley Region (2016-2021)



The growth rate in the number of schools offering the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley region spiked in the 2018-19 school year in which the number of schools offering the NYSSB rose by 135%. The growth rates for this region in 2019-20 and 2020-21, while still positive, were the smallest since schools began offering the NYSSB, most likely due to the impact of COVID-19 on instruction and school closures.

Figure 6. Percentage of Growth in Number of Schools in the Hudson Valley Region Offering the NYSSB (2016-2021)

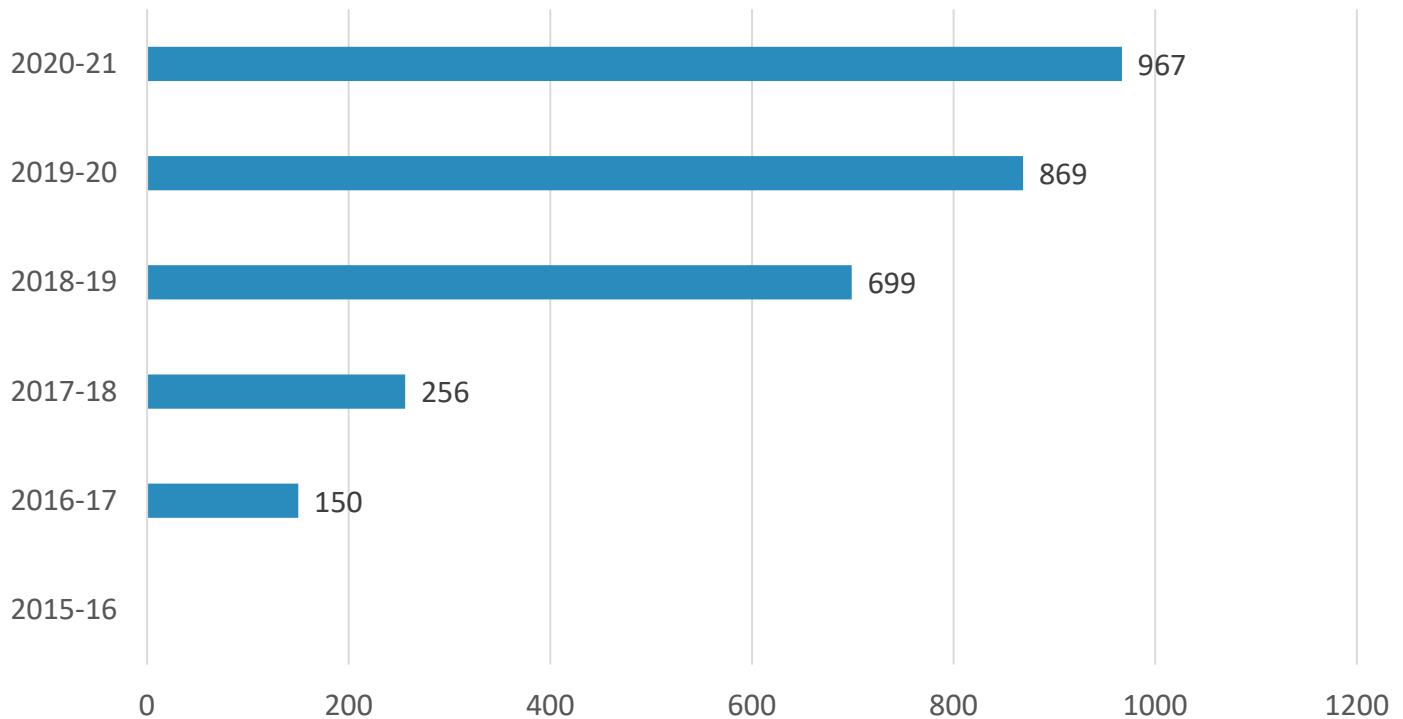


2021 NYSSB graduates from Newburgh Free Academy
(Photos courtesy of Newburgh Enlarged CSD)

Students Who Earned the NYSSB

The number of students who earned the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley region continued to grow in 2020-21 to 967 students, up more than 11% from the prior year as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region (2016-2021)

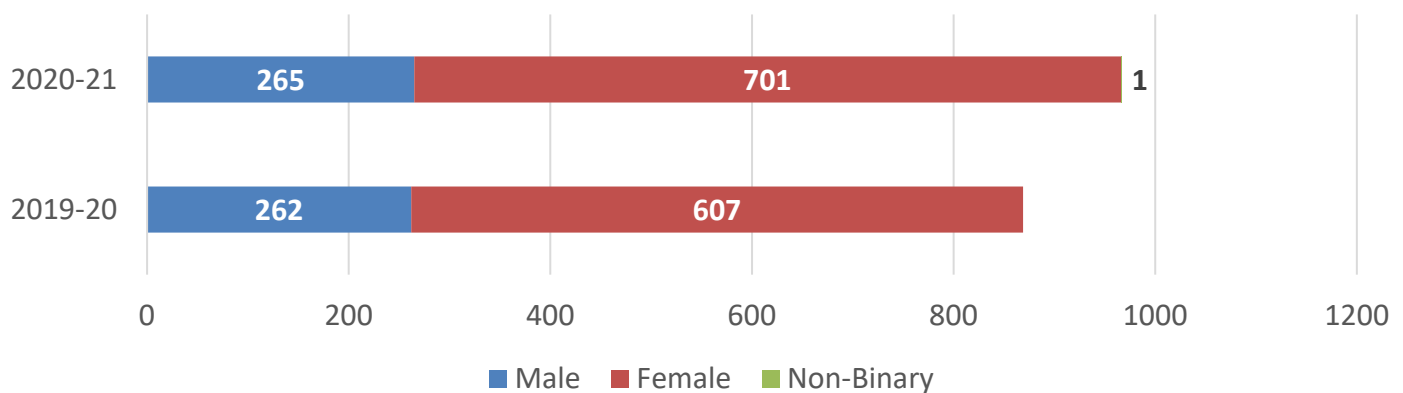


Seal Earners by Gender

The gender make-up of the NYSSB class of 2020-21 from the Hudson Valley region changed in multiple ways from the prior year:

- The number of students earning the NYSSB who identify as male increased by only three (from 262 to 265) in 2020-21.
- The number of students earning the NYSSB who identify as female rose by almost 100 students (from 607 to 701) in 2020-21.
- 2020-21 was the first year that students pursuing the NYSSB were able to identify as non-binary. One NYSSB earner from the Hudson Valley identified in this way in 2020-21.

Figure 8. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region by Gender (2020-2021)



Seal Earners by Race and Ethnicity

When disaggregated by race and ethnicity, the data on Seal earners from the Hudson Valley region shows relatively stable levels of participation by students of different races and ethnicities. Multiracial student participation (2%), Black or African American student participation (5%), and Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander student participation (6%) in the NYSSB remained the same from 2019-20 to 2020-21. A gain of 6% was seen in the participation of White students and a 6% decrease was seen in the participation of Hispanic students in 2020-21.

Figure 9. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region by Race/Ethnicity (2020)

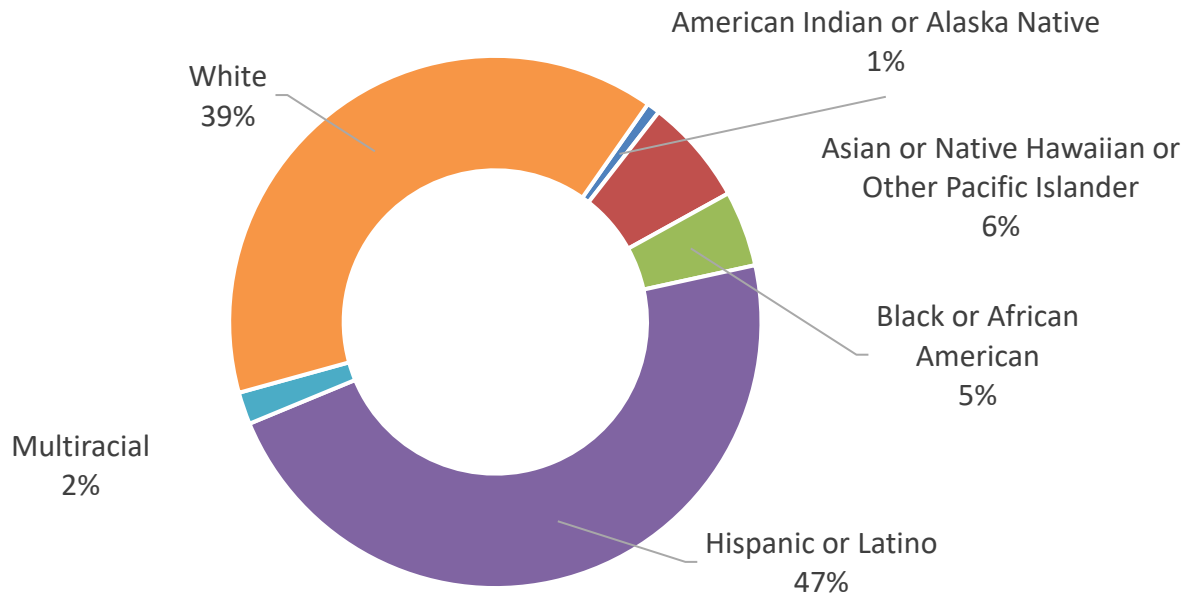
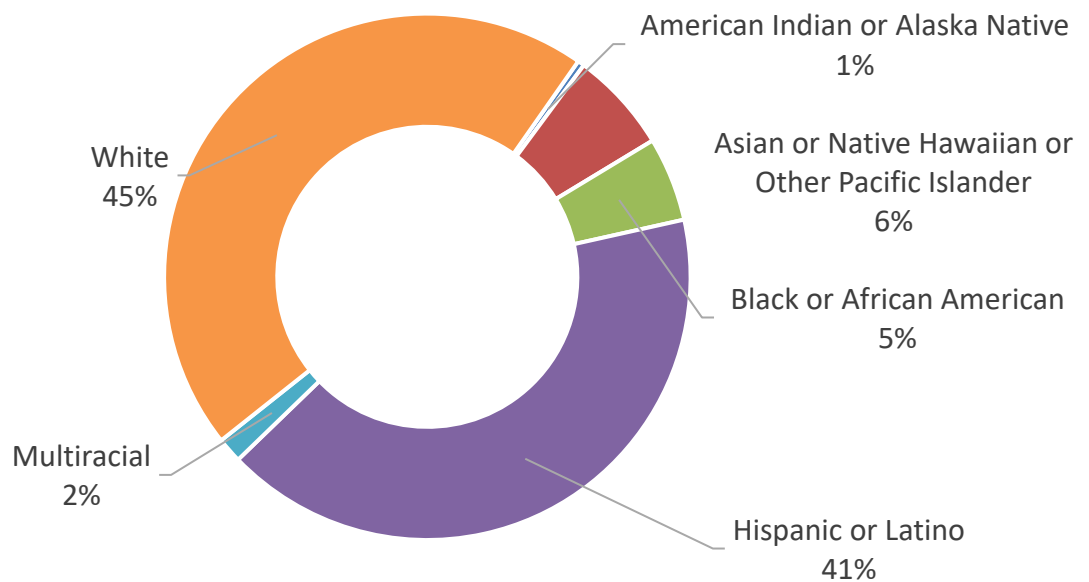


Figure 10. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region by Race/Ethnicity (2021)



Seal Earners by ELL Status

There are four student sub-groups which are eligible to pursue the NYSSB:

- Current English Language Learners (ELLs) - students who, by birth or ancestry, speak or understand a language other than English and who score below the designated level on the NYS English language proficiency assessment. Current ELLs generally earn the NYSSB in their home language and English.
- Ever ELLs - students who were once ELLs, but who have demonstrated the NYS designated level of proficiency necessary to exit ELL status. Ever ELLs generally earn the NYSSB in their home language and English, although some may take a course of study in another language in which to pursue the NYSSB.
- Never ELLs whose home language is English - students who have never been identified as ELLs and whose home language is English. This sub-group of Never ELLs generally earns the NYSSB in English and a world language that they study through the Checkpoint C level.
- Never ELLs whose home language is other than English - students who have never been identified as ELLs and whose home language is other than English. This sub-group of Never ELLs generally earns the NYSSB in English and their home language, but may also do so in a language that they study in school.

Table 1. Number of Students Who Earned the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region by ELL Status (2016-2021)

	ELLs	Ever ELLs	Never ELLs (Home Language = English)	Never ELLs (Home Language = Other Than English)*
2015-16	0	0	0	n/a
2016-17	8	48	94	n/a
2017-18	3	76	177	n/a
2018-19	28	151	520	n/a
2019-20	37	186	646	n/a
2020-21	53	201	520	193
Total	129	662	1,957	193

*In 2020-21, NYSED divided the “Never ELL” subgroup of students into those whose home language is English and those whose home language is other than English. Schools were able to report numbers for each of these new subgroups for the first time in 2020-21. Prior to that, this subgroup of students was included in a general “Never ELL” category.

Historically in the Hudson Valley region, as well as in most other regions of the state, the majority of students who earn the NYSSB are Never ELLs whose home language is English and who earn the NYSSB in English and in a world language studied in school. The participation in the NYSSB among Current ELLs in the Hudson Valley region has grown significantly over the last five years, starting with just eight in the first year the NYSSB was offered in this region and increasing to 53 in 2020-21. To increase the number of Current ELLs participating in the NYSSB:

1. More schools in the Hudson Valley region are encouraged to sign on to offer the NYSSB. Although almost 40% of district high schools in the Hudson Valley region offered the NYSSB program in 2020-21, there are still over 90 schools that do not yet offer the NYSSB.
2. Schools offering the NYSSB are encouraged to have systems in place to support students’ acquisition of English as well as the development of the home language(s) of Current ELLs.

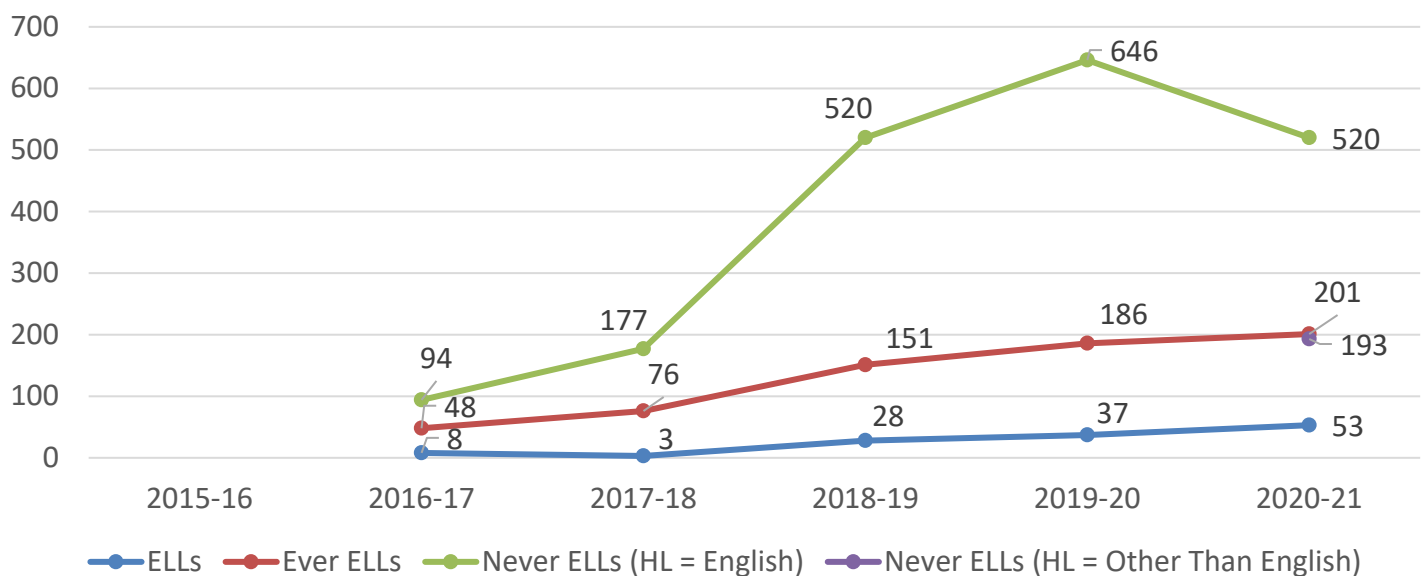
3. Schools offering the NYSSB are encouraged to develop promotional materials in the preferred languages of their ELL families to ensure parents are made aware of the opportunity and benefits of earning the NYSSB.
4. Schools offering the the NYSSB are encouraged to develop a network of adults among their staff and within their communities that are qualified speakers of other languages, focusing on the languages spoken by their Current and Ever ELLs, so as to support the participation in the NYSSB by these students. These adults can serve as advisors to students pursuing the NYSSB and as members of the panel of reviewers that evaluates the students' Culminating Projects.

Seal schools in the Hudson Valley region have aggressively sought to recruit Ever ELLs to pursue the NYSSB as evidenced by the exponential growth in the number of these students earning the NYSSB (from 48 in the first year to over 200 last year).

Never ELLs whose home language is English have historically represented the vast majority of Seal earners, not only within the Hudson Valley region, but across New York State. This population of Seal earners has shown the most drastic growth within the region, from 94 Seal earners in the first year the NYSSB was offered to 520 in 2020-21. It is likely that Never ELLs whose home language is English is the most easily identifiable student subgroup, given that they represent any senior who is currently completing a Checkpoint C world language course, or seniors who completed such a class with an average of 85% or better in the prior year. These students are enrolled in coursework that directly supports the attainment of the NYSSB, including regular access to instructors who speak the world language in which the students are pursuing the NYSSB.

Starting in the 2020-21 school year, the subgroup "Never ELLs" was divided into those whose home language is English and those whose home language is other than English. The purpose of this re-categorization is to distinguish students who are native English speakers from those who speak a language other than English at home. This latter group of students is often referred to as Heritage Language Speakers. Schools may face challenges in identifying these students as potential NYSSB applicants since they are not identified as ELLs and may speak a language that is not taught in their schools. In the Hudson Valley, there were 193 Never ELLs who home language (HL) is other than English in 2020-21. Figure 11 shows the number of students who earned the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region by ELL status from 2016 to 2021.

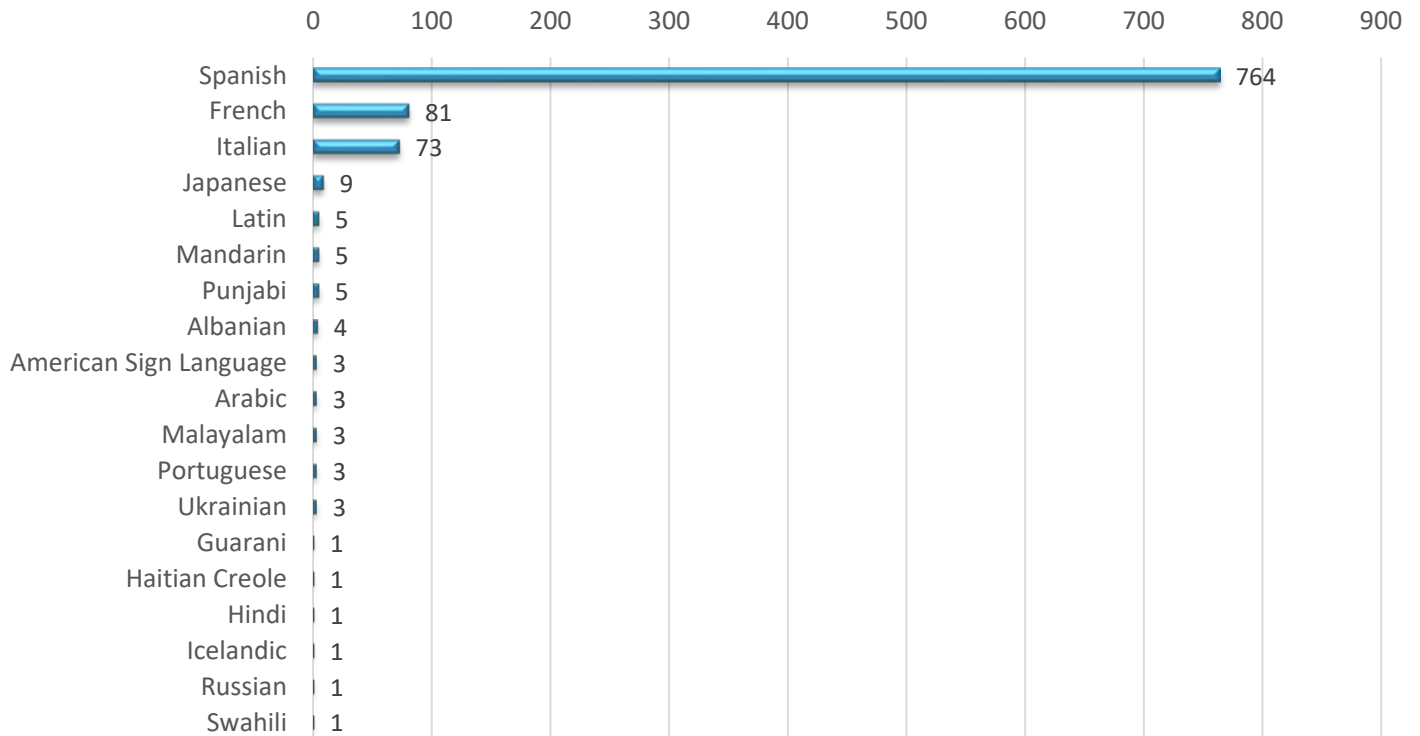
Figure 11. Number of Students who Earned the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region by ELL Status (2016-2021)



Seal Earners by Language

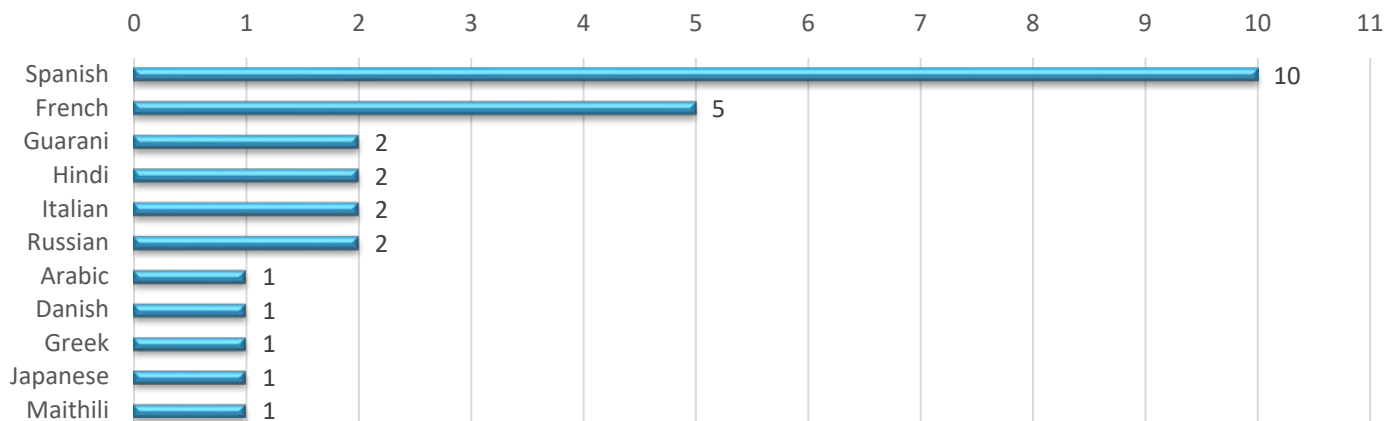
Students from the Hudson Valley region earned the NYSSB in Albanian, American Sign Language, Arabic, Danish, English, French, Greek, Guarani, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Maithili, Malayalam, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Ukrainian. Figure 12 shows the world languages other than English in which students earned the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley region, ranked from most to least frequent.

Figure 12. Number of Students Who Earned the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region by World Language (2016-2021)



28 students were awarded the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley region in two world languages in addition to English, as shown in Figure 13. One student was awarded the NYSSB in three world languages in addition to English.

Figure 13. Number of Students Who Earned the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region in Two World Languages in Addition to English (2021)

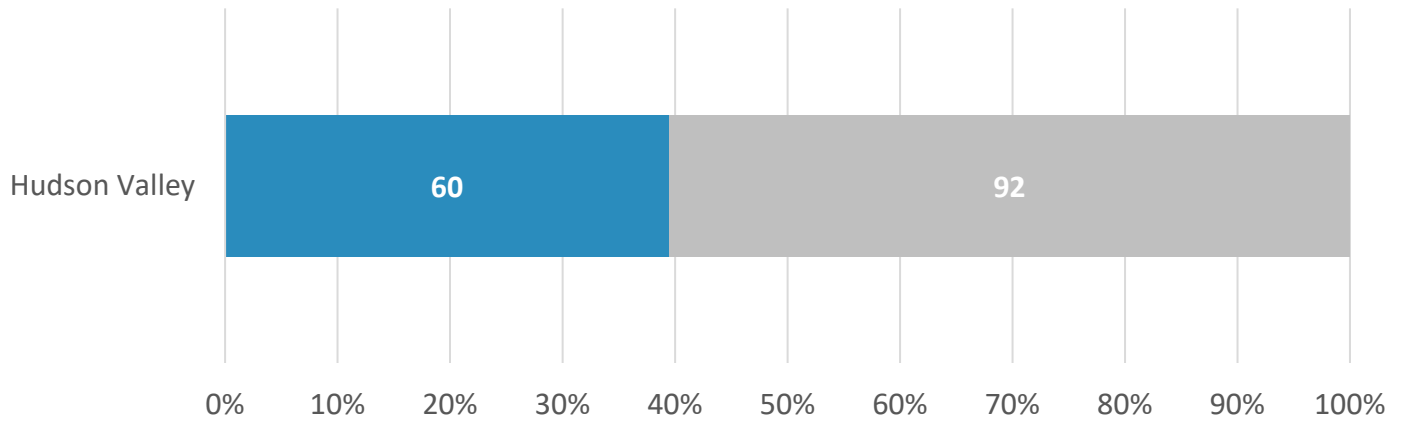


Areas for Potential Growth of the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region

Schools

There is significant potential for growth within this region that has 92 district high schools that did not have a NYSSB program as of 2020-21, as shown in Figure 14 below.

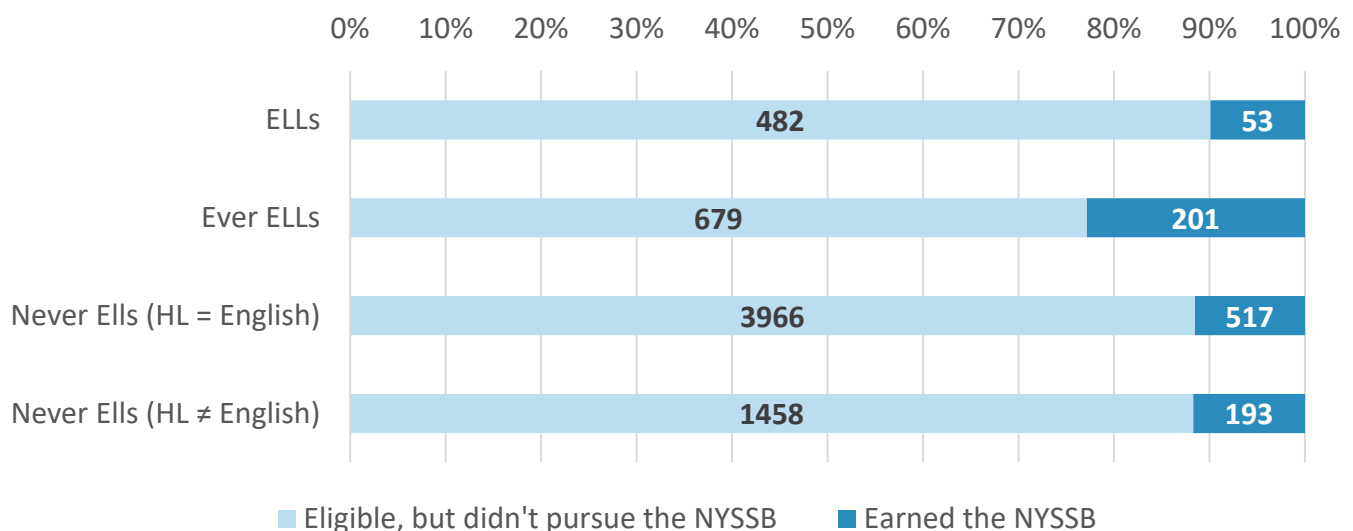
Figure 14. District High Schools in the Hudson Valley Region Offering vs. Not Offering the NYSSB (2021)



Students

In the Hudson Valley region, as in most regions, the largest group of students earning the NYSSB are Never ELLs whose home language (HL) is English and who are taking a course of study in a world language in high school. Figure 15 below shows the total students in the Hudson Valley region who earned the NYSSB in 2020-21 as compared to those who were eligible, but did not pursue the NYSSB, disaggregated by ELL status.

Figure 15. Seal Earners vs. Eligible Students Not Pursuing the NYSSB in the Hudson Valley Region by ELL Status (2021)



Eligible students include any student graduating in 2020-21 who was proficient in or studying English and another world language at the Checkpoint C level or higher.

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New York State Department of Education (NYSED) (2022). *The New York State Seal of Biliteracy 2020-21 Report*. By the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages.



*2021 NYSSB graduates from Bronxville High School
(Photo courtesy of Bronxville UFSD)*