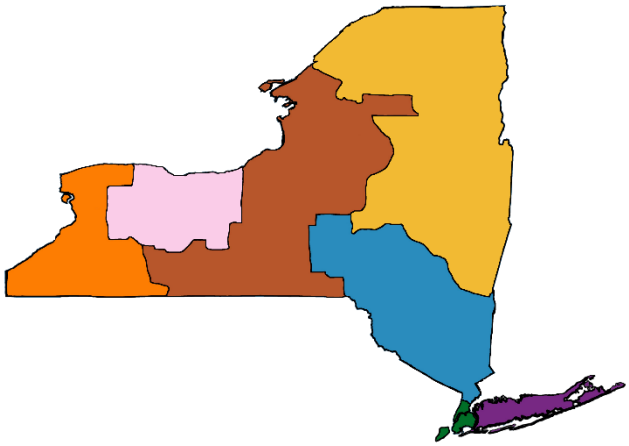
The New York State Seal of Biliteracy in the Long Island Region



2020-21 Report

Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

New York State Education Department

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January 21, 2022

Suggested citation:
New York State Department of Education (NYSED) (2022). *The New York State Seal of Biliteracy in the Long Island Region Report 2020-21.* By the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages.

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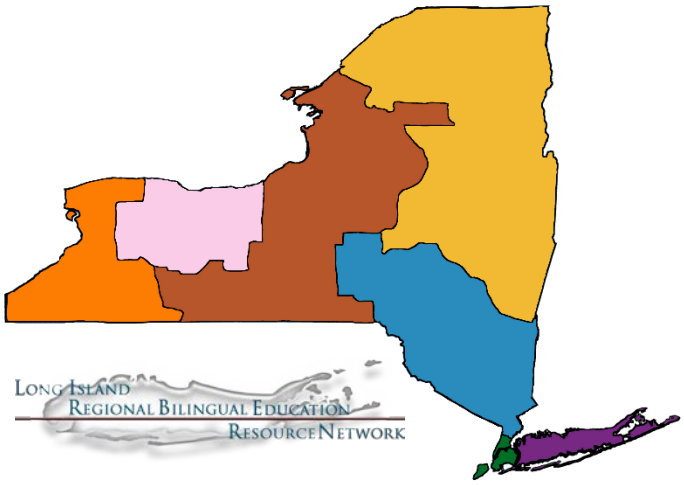
The Long Island Region

The Long Island region, represented by the area in purple on the map on the right, is made up of the counties of Nassau and Suffolk.

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



The Long Island region is supported by the Long Island Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) at Eastern Suffolk BOCES. This RBERN provides services to 125 districts in promoting equity and excellence in the education of English Language Learners (ELLs) by providing high-quality technical assistance, on-site consultation, and professional learning. The Long Island RBERN provides technical assistance on the intricacies of NYSED regulations and OBEWL guidance as they apply to ELLs. Resource Specialists work with district and building leaders to identify the needs of their English as a New Language (ENL) and Bilingual programs. On-site consultation, such as embedded coaching, guidance on curriculum and instructional strategies, or a comprehensive Program Quality Review is also offered. The Long Island RBERN Resource Specialists regularly deliver professional learning sessions tailored to the needs of the region, and/or specific school districts. All professional learning provided by the Long Island RBERN is eligible for Continuing Teacher Leader Education (CTLE) credit.

Contacts

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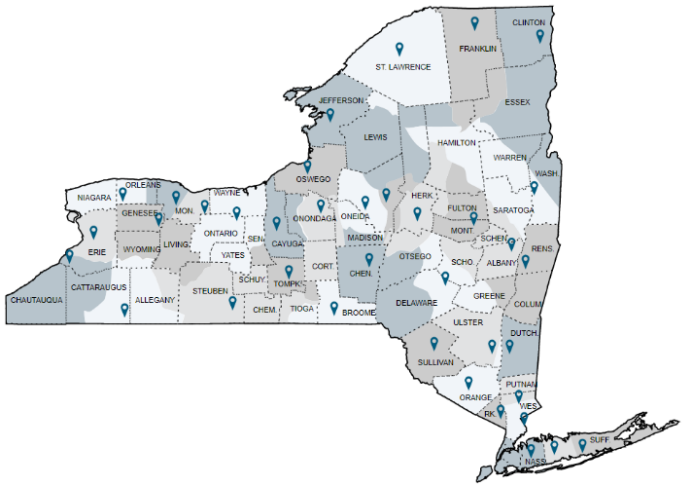
379 Locust Avenue, Oakdale, NY 11769, (631) 218-5175
Website: www.esboces.org/lirbern, Email: lirbern@esboces.org

Western Satellite Office, Western Suffolk BOCES, (631) 595-6911

The Long Island region is also serviced by the following BOCES shown in Figure 2 on the right:

- Nassau County and BOCES
- Western Suffolk BOCES
- Suffolk BOCES (Eastern Suffolk)

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 Long Island region for 2020-21 can be found on the following two pages in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Infographic Summary of the NYSSB in the Long Island Region (2021)

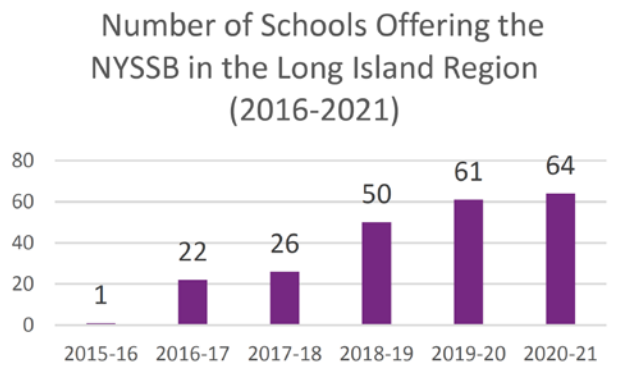
NYS Seal of Biliteracy
Long Island Region 2020-21

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.

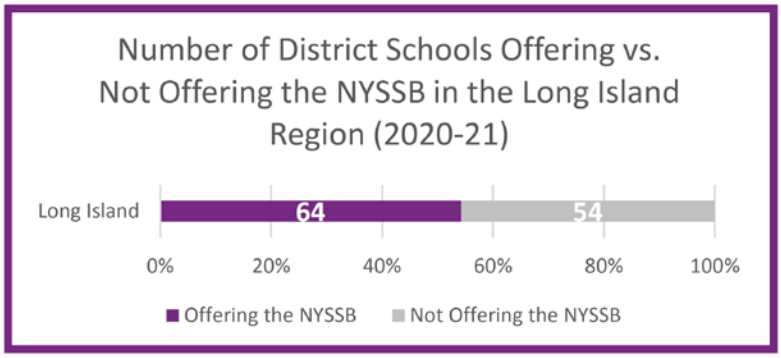
The intent of the NYSSB is to:

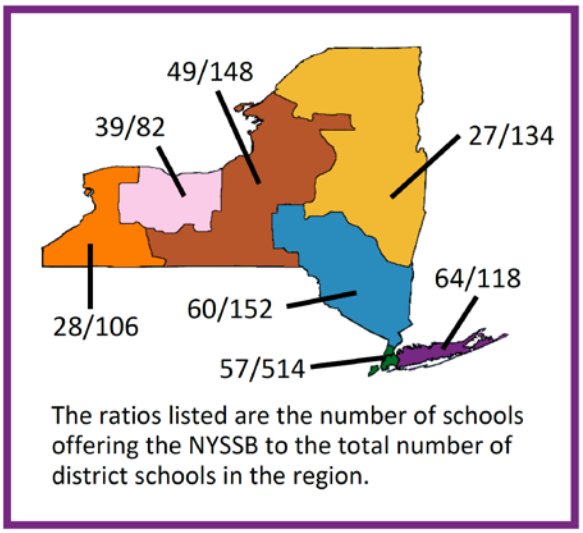
- affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society;
- encourage the study of languages;
- identify high school graduates with multilingualism and multiliteracy skills for employers;
- provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission;
- prepare students with twenty-first 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 also includes current ELLs not in the graduation cohort earning the NYSSB and a Regents Diploma.



54.2%
of district schools in the Long Island region offered the NYSSB in 2020-21.



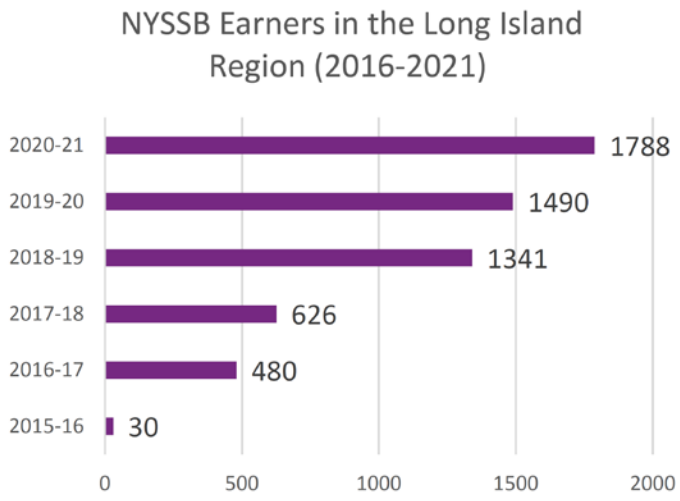


The ratios listed are the number of schools offering the NYSSB to the total number of district schools in the region.

Languages in which Long Island students earned the NYSSB in 2020-21

American Sign Language, Bengali, English, French, German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Italian, Korean, Latin, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Urdu

1,788 students from the Long Island region earned the NYSSB in 2020-21.



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

Seal Earners by Gender

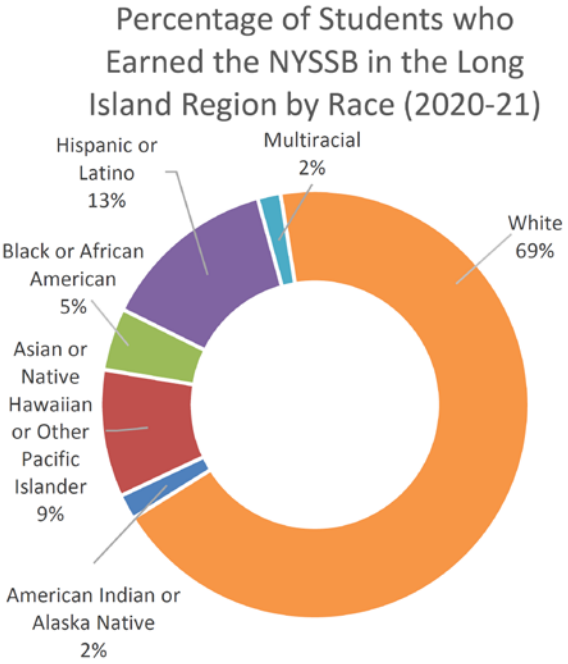
1,213 (Female)

575 (Male)

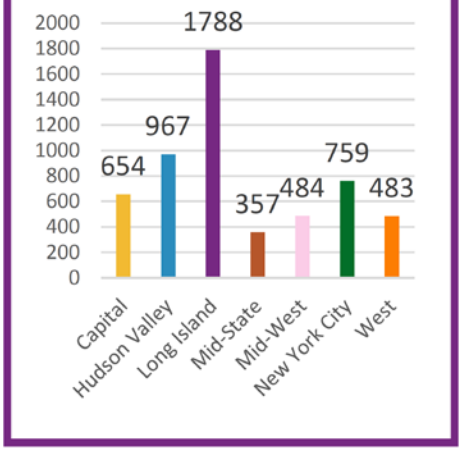
Seal Earners by ELL Status

Current ELLs	100
Former/Ever ELLs	215
Never ELLs - Home Language = English	1212
Never ELLs - Home Language ≠ English	261

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.



27 Students from the Long Island region earned the NYSSB in **two** world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.



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

Long Island RBERN @ Eastern Suffolk BOCES

379 Locust Avenue, Oakdale, NY 11769, Tel: (631) 218-5175

Website: www.esboces.org/lirbern Email: lirbern@esboces.org

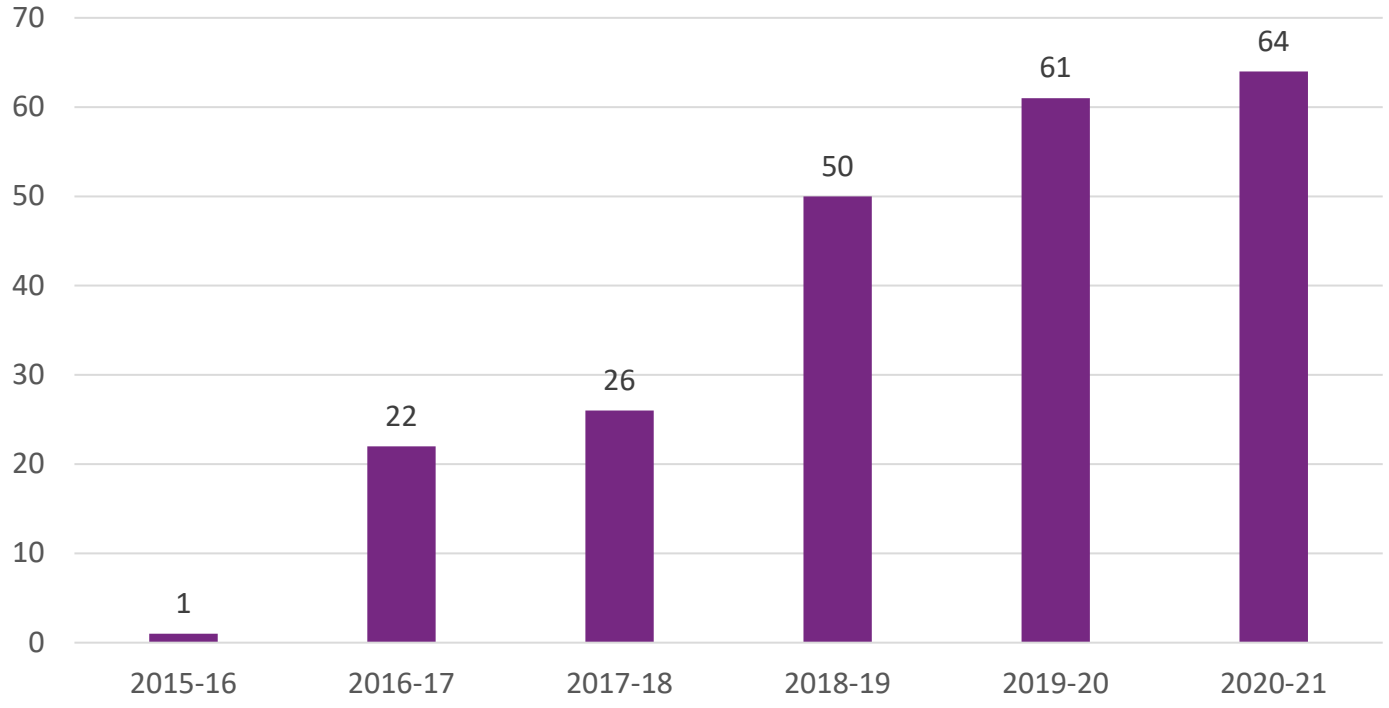
Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages, New York State Education Department

NYSSB Website, Email: nyssb@nysed.gov

Schools that Offered the NYSSB

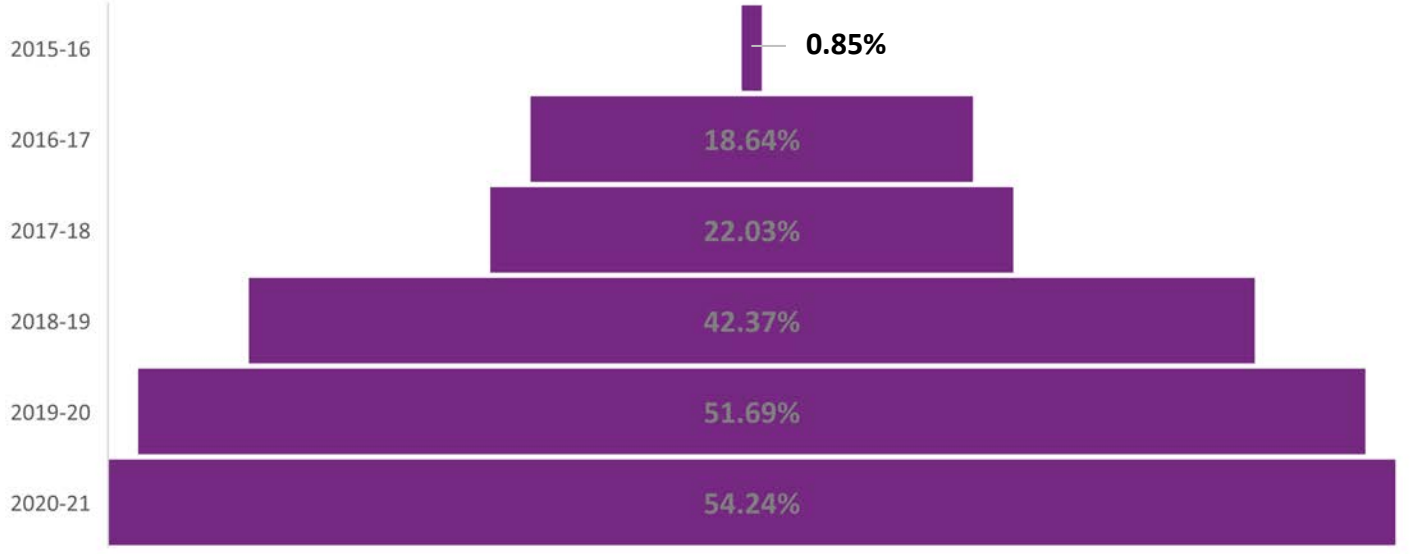
The number of schools in the Long Island region that offered the NYSSB rose again in 2020-21 to 64 schools, as shown in Figure 4.

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



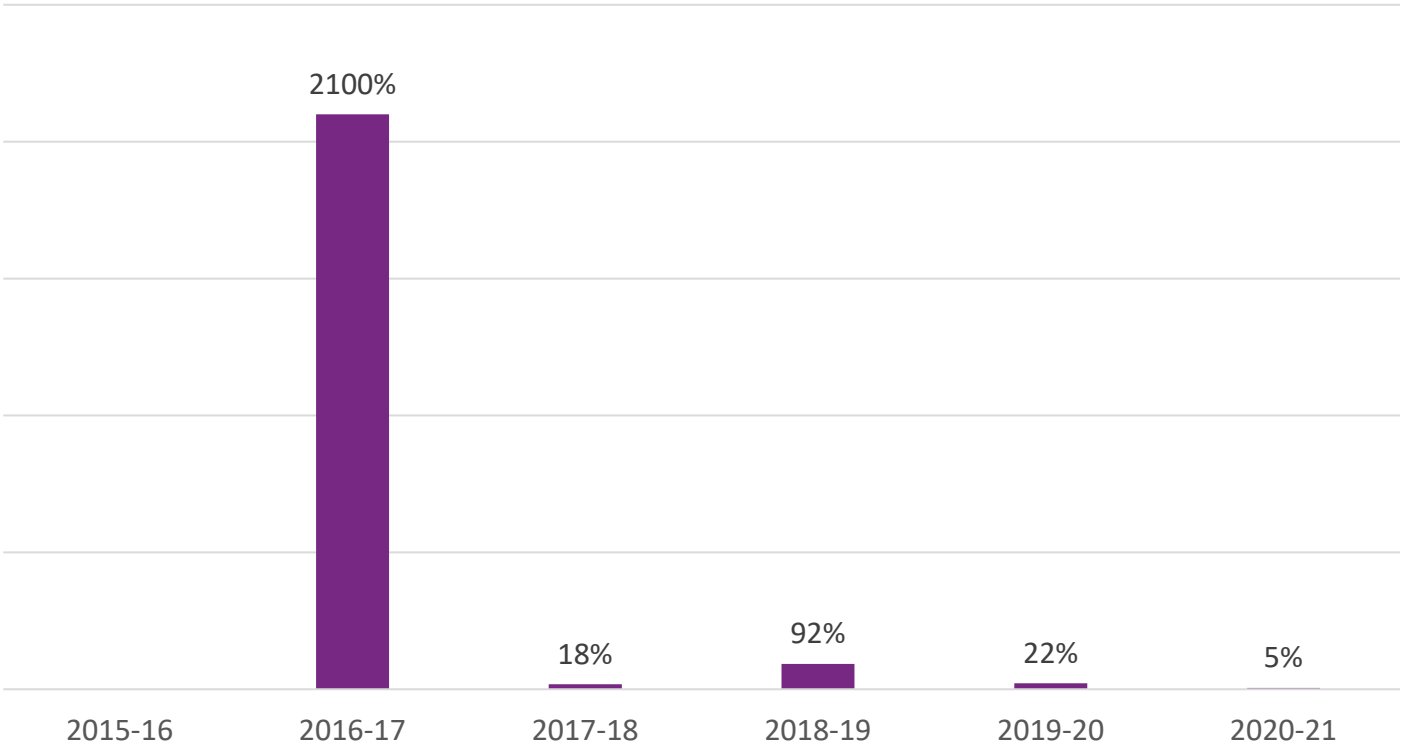
The 64 schools in the Long Island region represented over 54% of district high schools in the region, or more than one in every two district high schools, the highest of any region in our state. As demonstrated in Figure 5, the percentage of schools in the Long Island region has experienced explosive growth after the first year the NYSSB was offered in 2015-16, starting at 0.85% and growing to 54.24% in five years.

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



The growth rate in the number of schools offering the NYSSB in the Long Island region spiked in the 2016-17 school year in which the number of schools offering the NYSSB rose by 2100%. The growth rate in 2020-21, while still positive, was the smallest one since schools began offering the NYSSB in this region, 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 Long Island Region Offering the NYSSB (2016-2021)

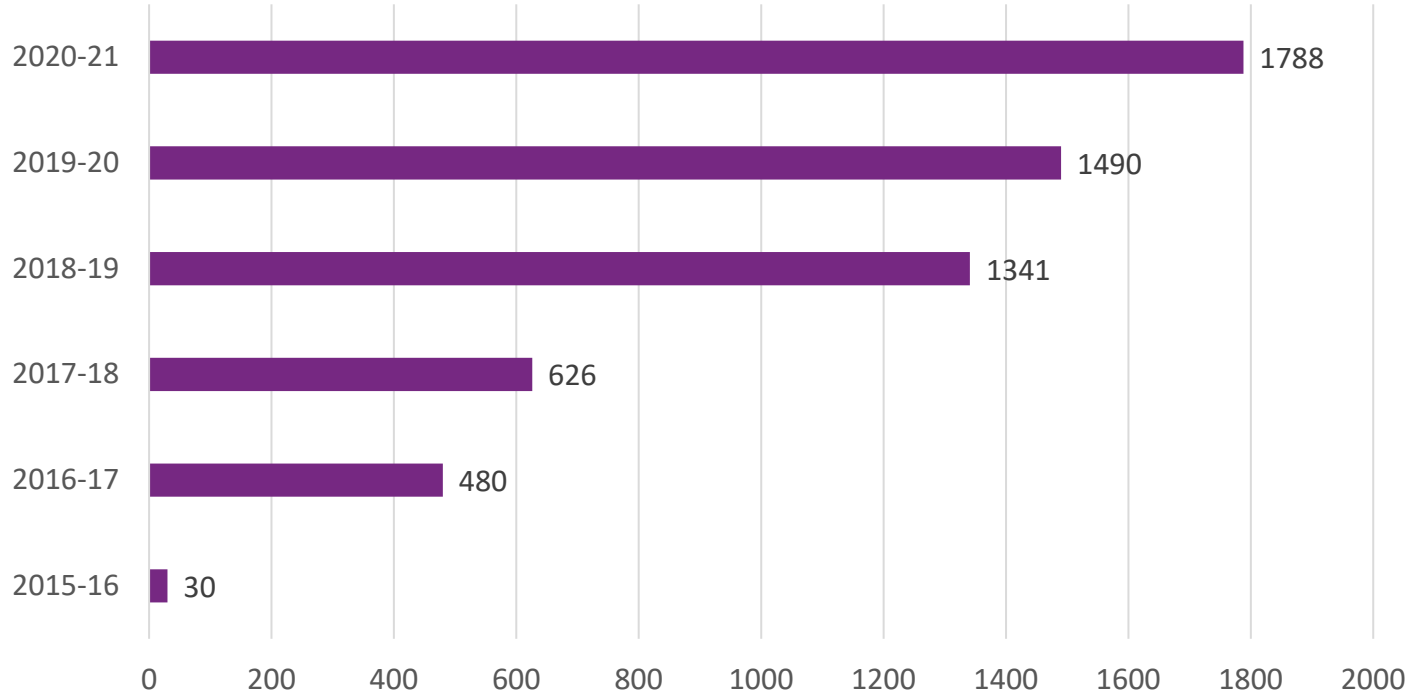


2021 NYSSB graduates from Patchogue-Medford High School
(Photos courtesy of Patchogue-Medford UFSD)

Students Who Earned the NYSSB

The number of students who earned the NYSSB in the Long Island region continued to grow in 2020-21 to 1,788 students, up more than 20% from the prior year.

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

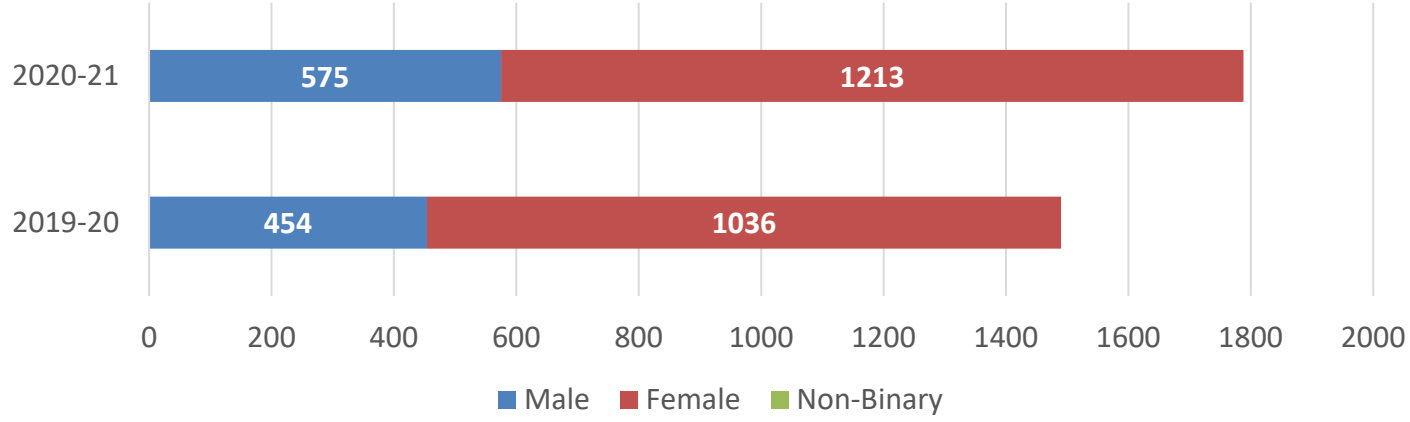


Seal Earners by Gender

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

- Seal earners who identify as male represented only 30% of all NYSSB earners from the region in 2019-20, but rose to 32% in 2020-21, a gain of 2%.
- Seal earners who identify as female represented 70% of all NYSSB earners from the region in 2019-20, but fell to 68%, a loss of 2%.
- 2020-21 was the first year that students pursuing the NYSSB were able to identify as non-binary. None of the NYSSB earners from the Long Island region identified in this way in 2020-21.

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



Seal Earners by Race and Ethnicity

When disaggregated by race and ethnicity, the data on Seal earners in the Long Island region shows relatively stable levels of participation by students of most races and ethnicities. The region saw minor gains in participation among American Indian or Alaska Native students (from 0.3% to 2%) and Black or African American students (from 4% to 5%). The participation of White students in the NYSSB increased by 17% (from 52% to 69%). The region saw minor losses in the participation of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students (from 11% to 9%) and Multiracial students (from 3% to 2%). The participation of Hispanic students dropped from 30% in 2019-20 to only 13% the following year.

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

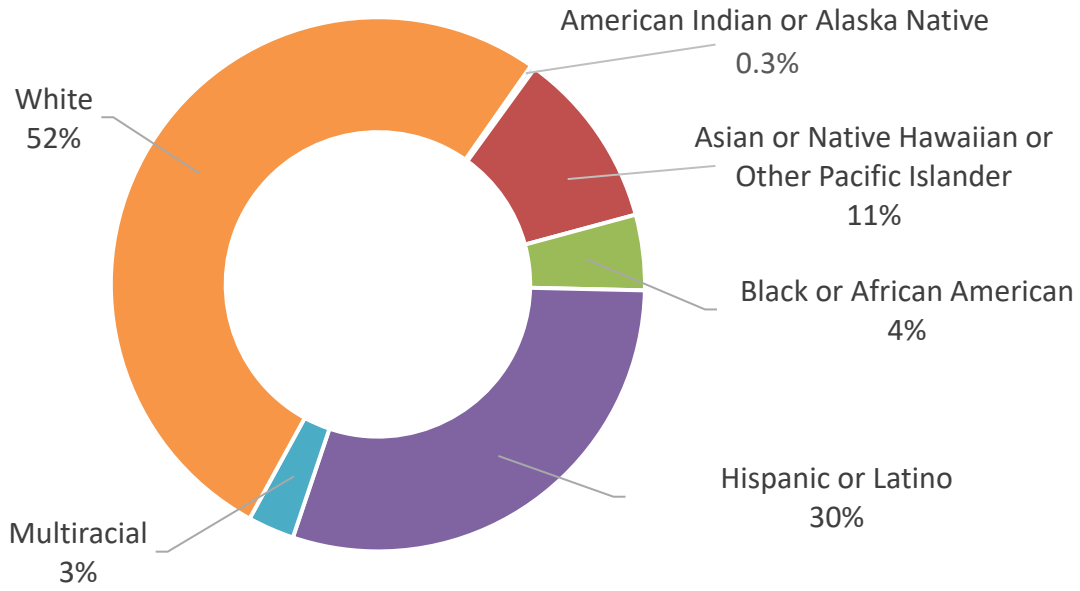
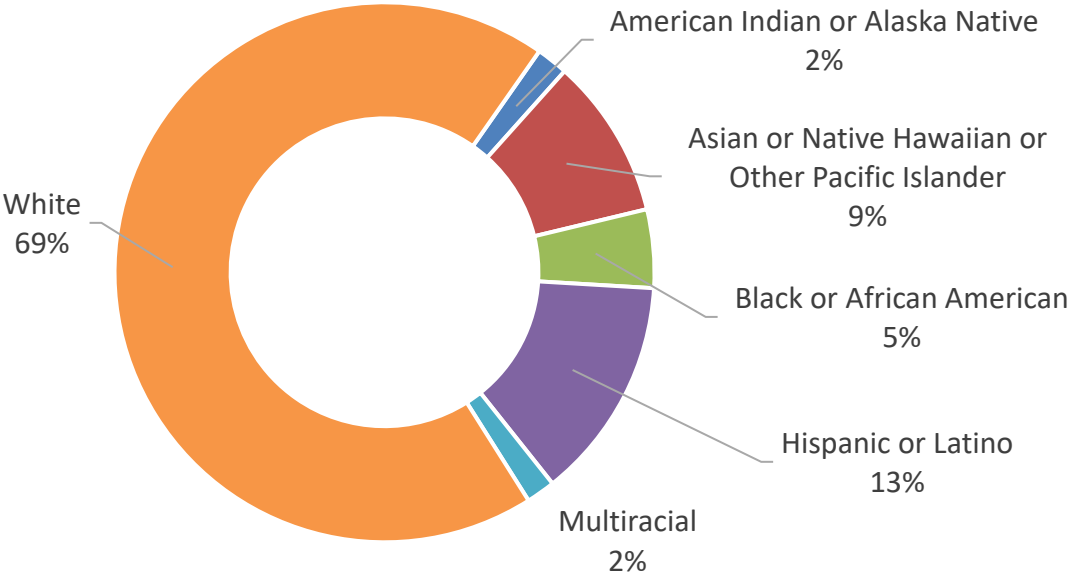


Figure 10. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Long Island Region by Race/Ethnicity (2021)



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 Long Island 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	30	n/a
2016-17	26	64	390	n/a
2017-18	8	103	513	n/a
2018-19	49	191	1,108	n/a
2019-20	32	266	1,192	n/a
2020-21	100	215	1,212	261
Total	**215**	**839**	**4,445**	**261**

*In 2020-21, NYSED divided the "Never ELL" subgroup of students into those whose home language was English and those whose home language was 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 Long Island 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 Long Island region has nearly quadrupled (100 students) since the first year that ELLs earned the Seal in the region (26 ELLs in 2016-17). To increase number of Current ELLs participating in the NYSSB:

1. More schools in the Long Island region are encouraged to sign on to offer the NYSSB, especially those with significant ELL populations.
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.

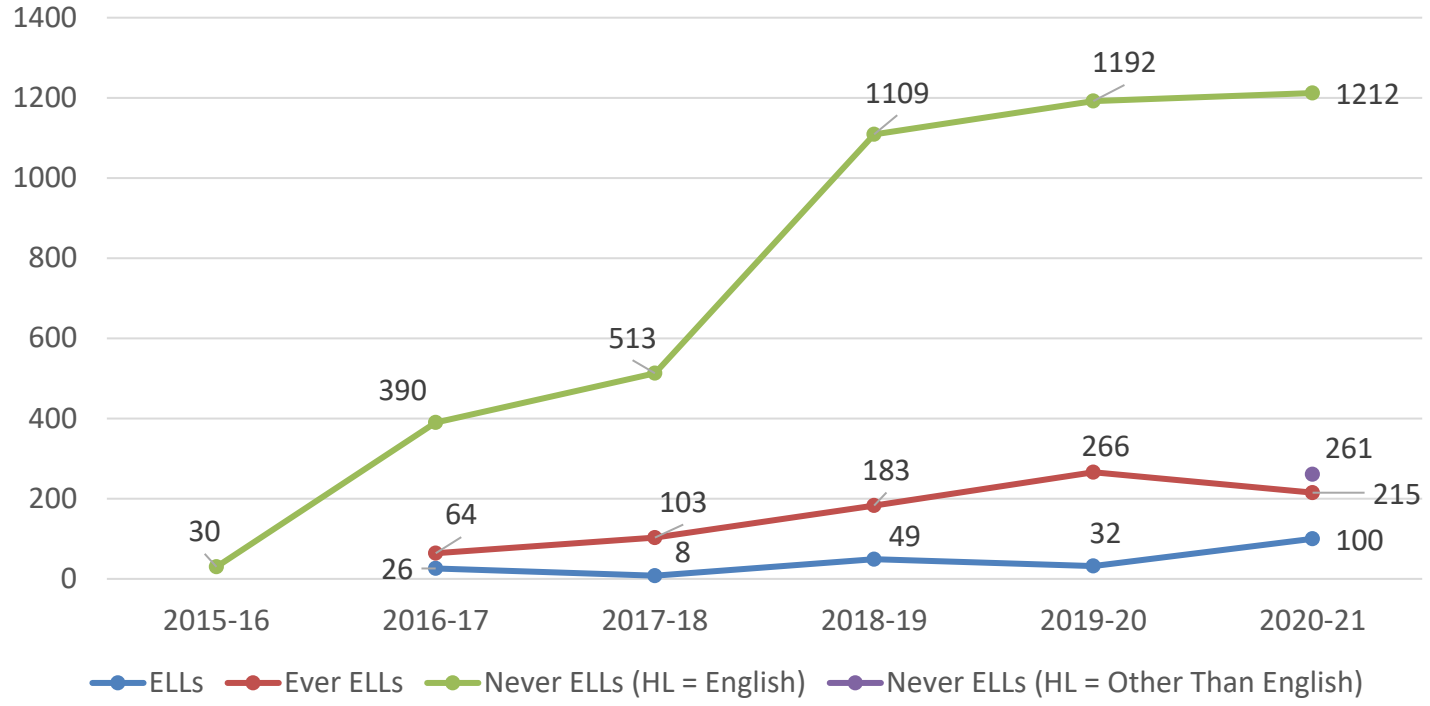
4. Schools offering the NYSSB are encouraged to develop a network of adults among their staff and within their communities that are qualified speakers of other languages, focusing on the languages spoken by their Current and Ever ELLs, so as to support the participation in the NYSSB by these students. 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.

The number of Ever ELLs earning the NYSSB in the Long Island region has been solid since the second year the NYSSB was offered and has continued to grow in subsequent years. In 2020-21, 215 Ever ELLs earned the NYSSB in the Long Island region.

Never ELLs whose home language is English have historically represented the vast majority of Seal earners, not only within the Long Island region, but across New York State. This population of Seal earners has shown the most drastic growth within the region, from 30 Seal earners in the first year the NYSSB was offered to 1,212 in 2020-21, a growth rate of 3900% over five years. It is likely that Never ELLs whose home language is English is the most easily identifiable student sub-group, 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 were native English speakers, who happened to 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 Long Island region, there were 261 Never ELLs whose home language (HL) is other than English who earned the NYSSB in 2020-21. Figure 11 shows the number of students who earned the NYSSB in the Long Island Region by ELL status from 2016 to 2021.

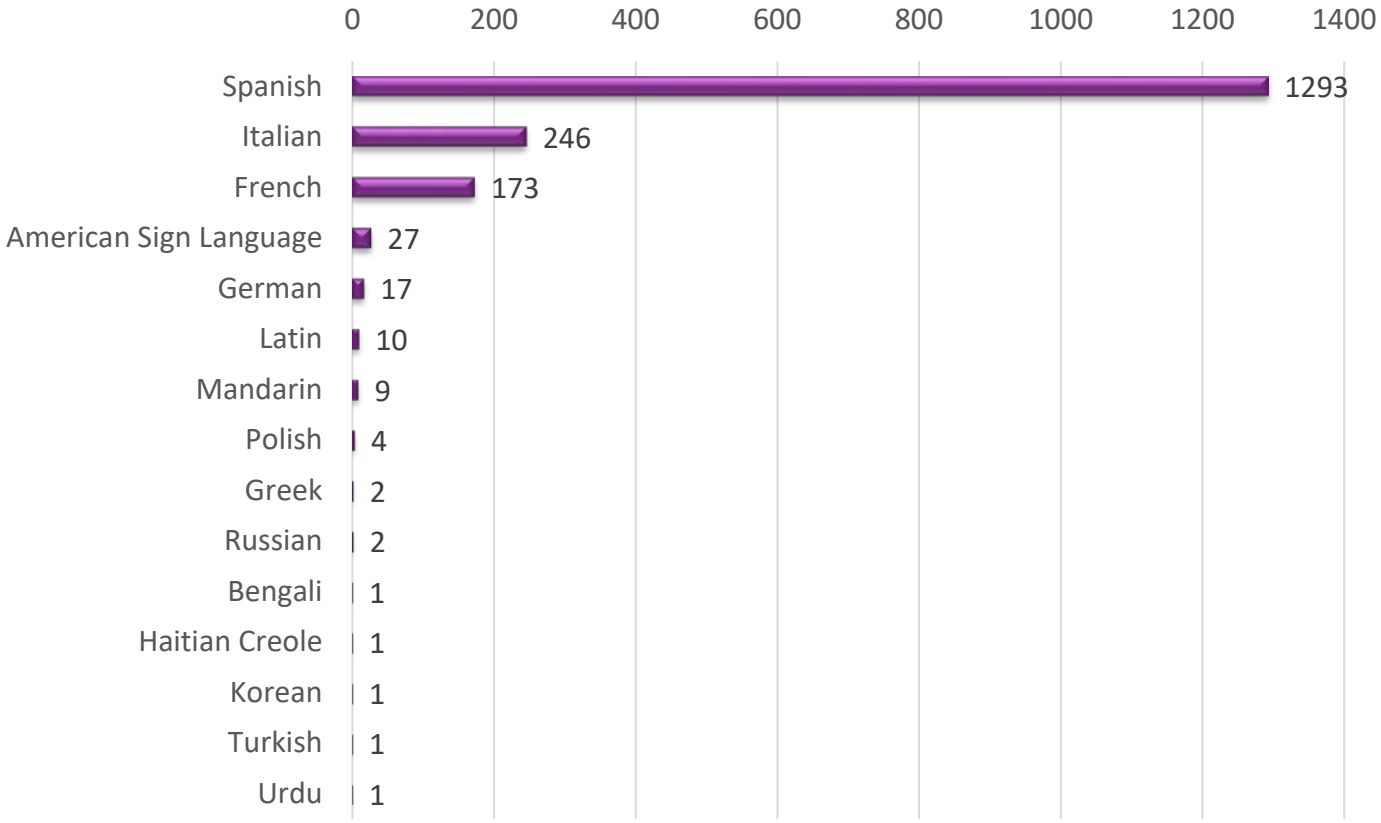
Figure 11. Number of Students who Earned the NYSSB in the Long Island Region by ELL Status (2016-2021)



Seal Earners by Language

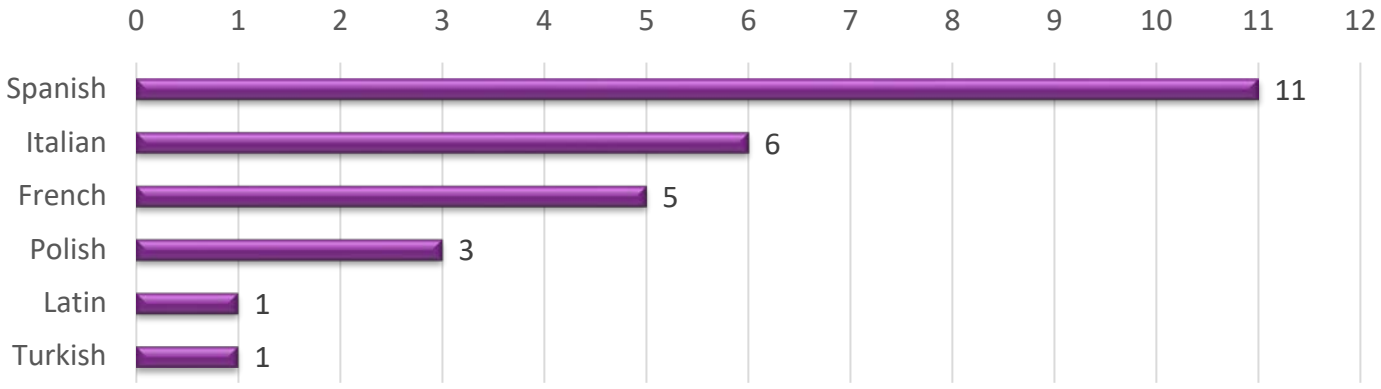
Students from the Long Island region earned the NYSSB in American Sign Language, Bengali, English, French, German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Italian, Korean, Latin, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Urdu. Figure 12 shows the world languages other than English in which students earned the NYSSB in the Long Island region, ranked from most to least frequent.

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



27 students were awarded the NYSSB in two world languages in addition to English, as shown in Figure 13.

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

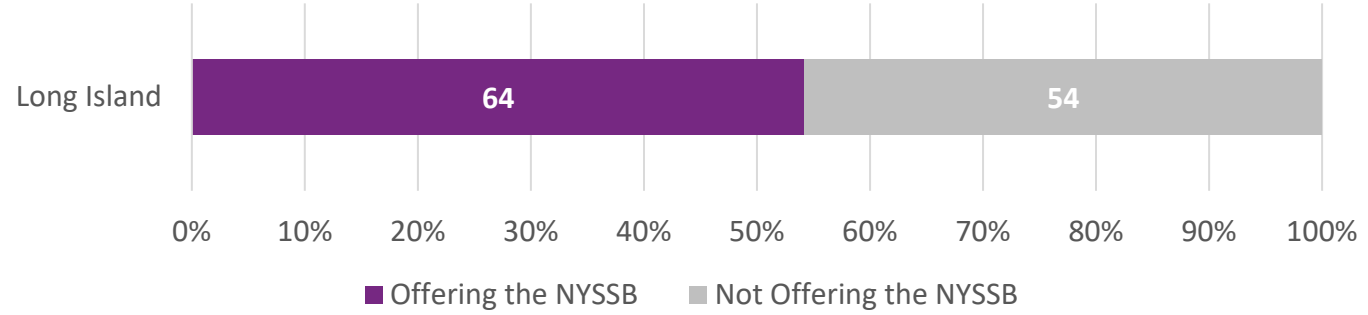


Areas for Potential Growth of the NYSSB in the Long Island Region

Schools

There is significant potential for growth within the Long Island region, which has 54 district high schools that did not have a NYSSB program as of 2020-21, as shown in Figure 14 below.

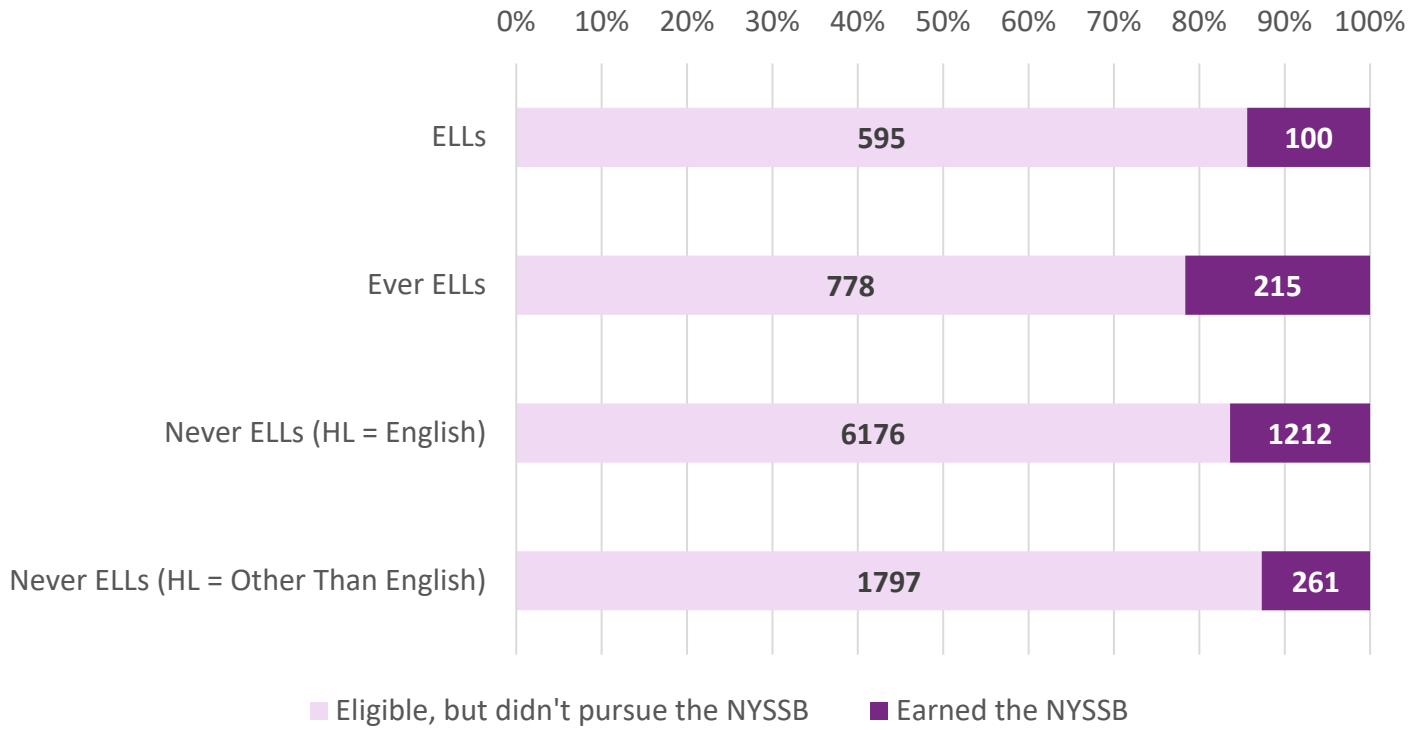
Figure 14. District High Schools in the Long Island Region Offering vs. Not Offering the NYSSB (2021)



Students

The number of students who earned the NYSSB in the Long Island region continued to grow in 2020-21 to 1,788 students, up more than 20% from the prior year. Figure 15 below shows the total students in the Capital-East 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 Long Island 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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2021 NYSSB graduate and Seal Coordinator from Valley Stream North High School
(Photo courtesy of Valley Stream Central High School District)