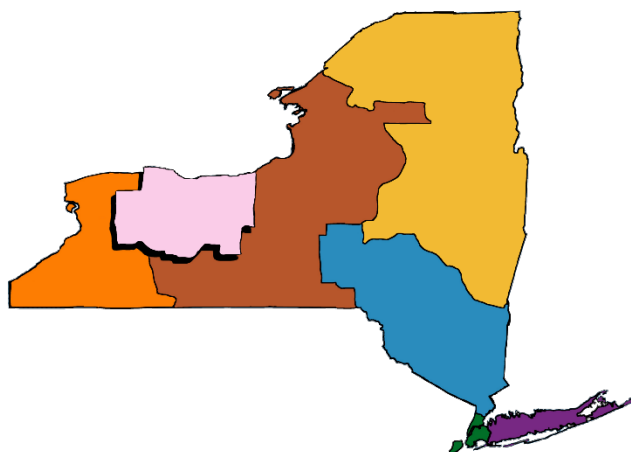
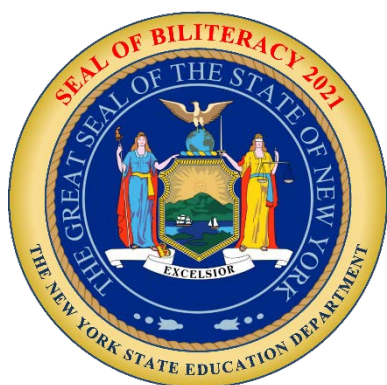


# The New York State Seal of Biliteracy in the Mid-West Region



## 2020-21 Report

Office of Bilingual Education  
and World Languages

New York State Education Department



New York State  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



**Report prepared by Candace R. Black  
World Language Associate  
Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages  
New York State Education Department  
89 Washington Avenue, EB505W  
Albany, NY 12234  
[nyssb@nysed.gov](mailto:nyssb@nysed.gov)  
(518) 473-7505**

**January 21, 2022**

**Suggested citation:**

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

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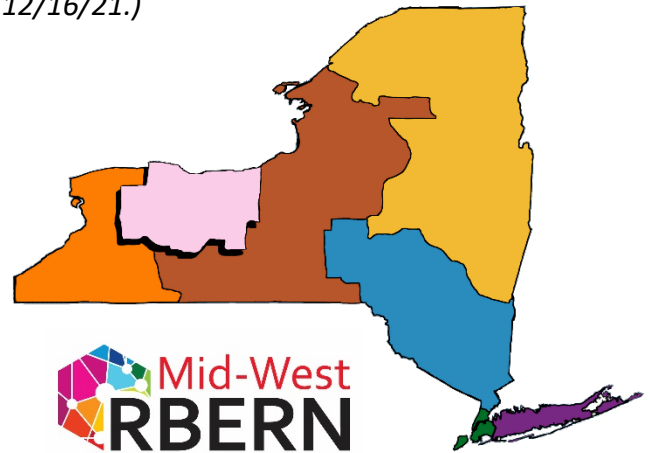
## The Mid-West Region

The Mid-West region, represented by the area in pink on the map on the right, is made up of the counties of Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

The Mid-West region is supported by the Mid-West Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES. The purpose of the Mid-West RBERN is to build capacity within school communities to cultivate strong leaders, high quality and meaningful instruction, and welcoming and inclusive environments for English Language Learners (ELLs). The Mid-West RBERN is committed to developing partnerships that result in equitable educational outcomes for ELLs by capitalizing on the backgrounds, cultures, and strengths of diverse students and educators. The RBERN provides services to over 71 districts, including the delivery of professional learning on high quality instruction and assessment practices that support academic achievement for ELLs, technical assistance on the design, implementation and enhancement of educational programs for ELLs, technical assistance and workshops on state and federal laws, regulations, and policies, and a support network for resources and collaboration for the education of ELLs.

Figure 1. Map of New York State by Region with the Mid-West Region Highlighted (Image downloaded from:

<https://www.nysrbernondemand.org/> on 12/16/21.)



### Contact

**Mid-West RBERN, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES**

**3599 Big Ridge Rd, Spencerport, NY 14459, Tel: (585) 352-2790**

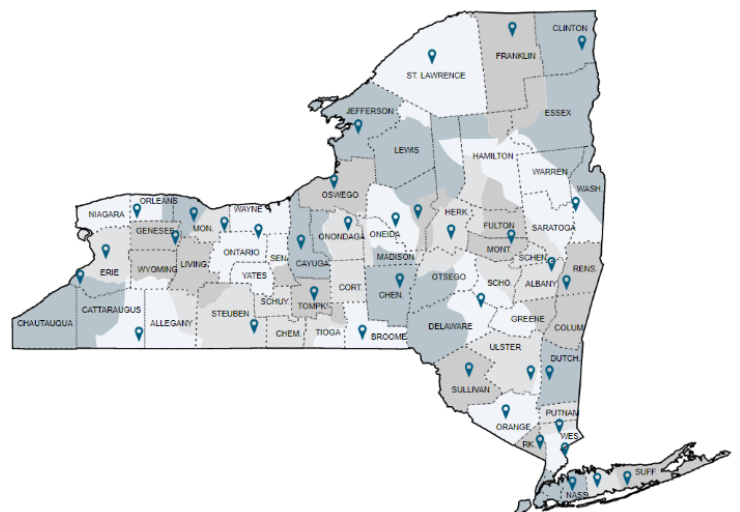
**Website: [www.monroe2boces.org/rbern](http://www.monroe2boces.org/rbern), Email: [midwestrbern@monroe2boces.org](mailto:midwestrbern@monroe2boces.org)**

This Mid-West region is also serviced by the following BOCES shown in Figure 2 below:

- [Ontario-Seneca-Yates-Cayuga-Wayne Counties and BOCES \(Wayne-Finger Lakes\)](#)
- [Monroe County and BOCES \(Monroe 1\)](#)
- [Monroe-Orleans Counties and BOCES \(Monroe 2-Orleans\)](#)
- [Genesee-Livingston-Steuben-Wyoming Counties and BOCES \(Genesee Valley BOCES\)](#)

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

Figure 3. Infographic Summary of the NYSSB in the Mid-West Region (2021)





# NYS Seal of Biliteracy Mid-West Region 2020-21





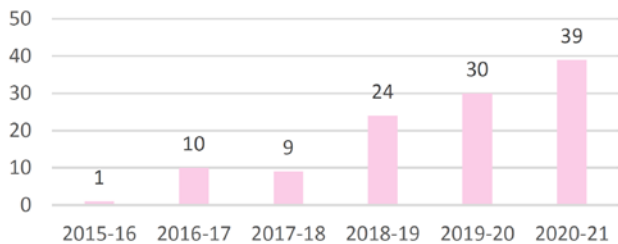
The New York Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) recognizes students from district, charter, and non-public schools who have attained a **high level of proficiency in two or more world languages** (one of which must be English) by high school graduation. It acknowledges the importance of biliteracy in today's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

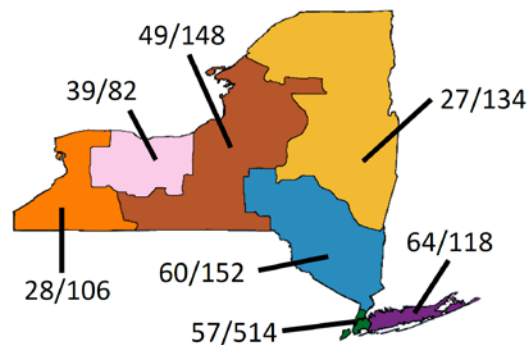
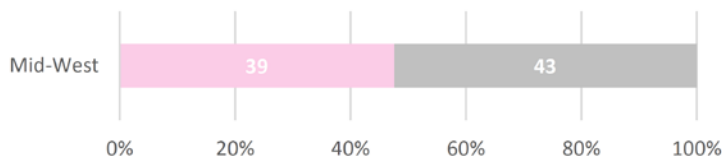
Number of Schools Offering the NYSSB in the Mid-West Region (2016-2021)



**47.6%**

of district schools in the Mid-West region offered the NYSSB in 2020-21.

Number of District Schools Offering\* vs. Not Offering the NYSSB in the Mid-West Region (2020-21)



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

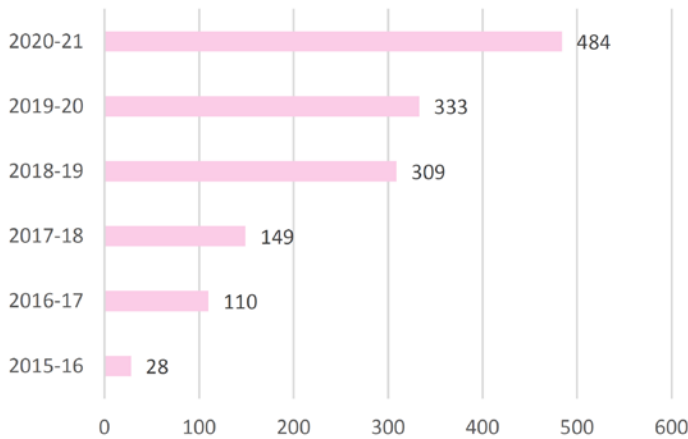
\*There is one charter school offering the NYSSB that is included in the total (39) schools.

Languages in which Mid-West students earned the NYSSB in 2020-21

American Sign Language, Arabic, English, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Kirundi, Korean, Latin, Lingala, Mandarin, Nepali, Punjabi, Somali, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese

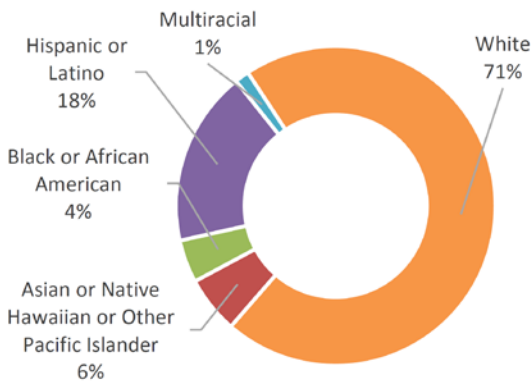
**484** students from the Mid-West region earned the NYSSB in 2020-21.

NYSSB Earners in the Mid-West Region  
(2015-2021)



Despite the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, the number of students from the Mid-West region earning the NYSSB continues to increase.

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

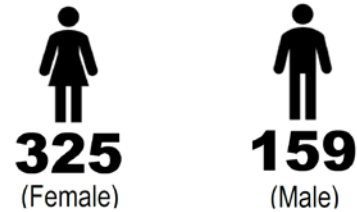


**1** Student from the Mid-West region earned the NYSSB in **three** world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.



**8** Students from the Mid-West region earned the NYSSB in **two** world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.

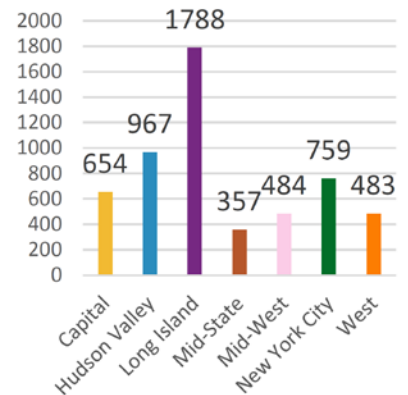
Seal Earners by Gender



Seal Earners by ELL Status

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Current ELLs                         | 39  |
| Former/Ever ELLs                     | 40  |
| Never ELLs - Home Language = English | 375 |
| Never ELLs - Home Language ≠ English | 30  |

**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.  
Mid-West RBERN, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES  
3599 Big Ridge Rd, Spencerport, NY 14459, Tel: (585) 352-2790

Website: [www.monroe2boces.org/rbern](http://www.monroe2boces.org/rbern), Email: [midwestrbern@monroe2boces.org](mailto:midwestrbern@monroe2boces.org)

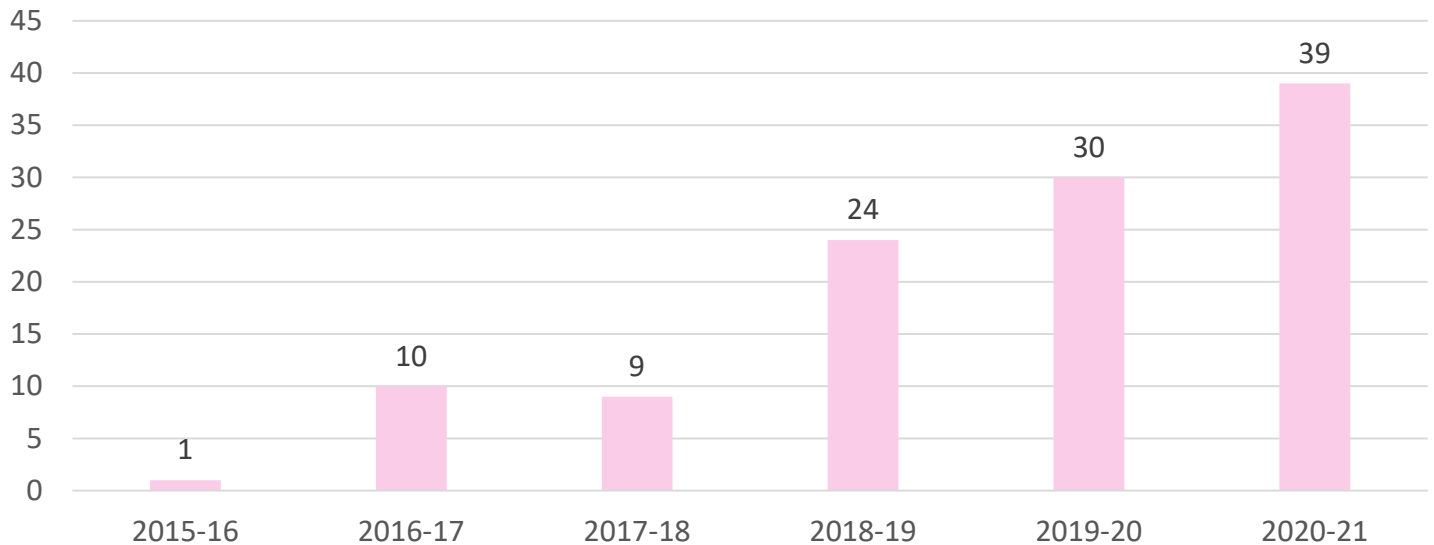


Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages, New York State Education Department  
NYSSB Website, Email: [nyssb@nysed.gov](mailto:nyssb@nysed.gov)

## Schools that Offered the NYSSB

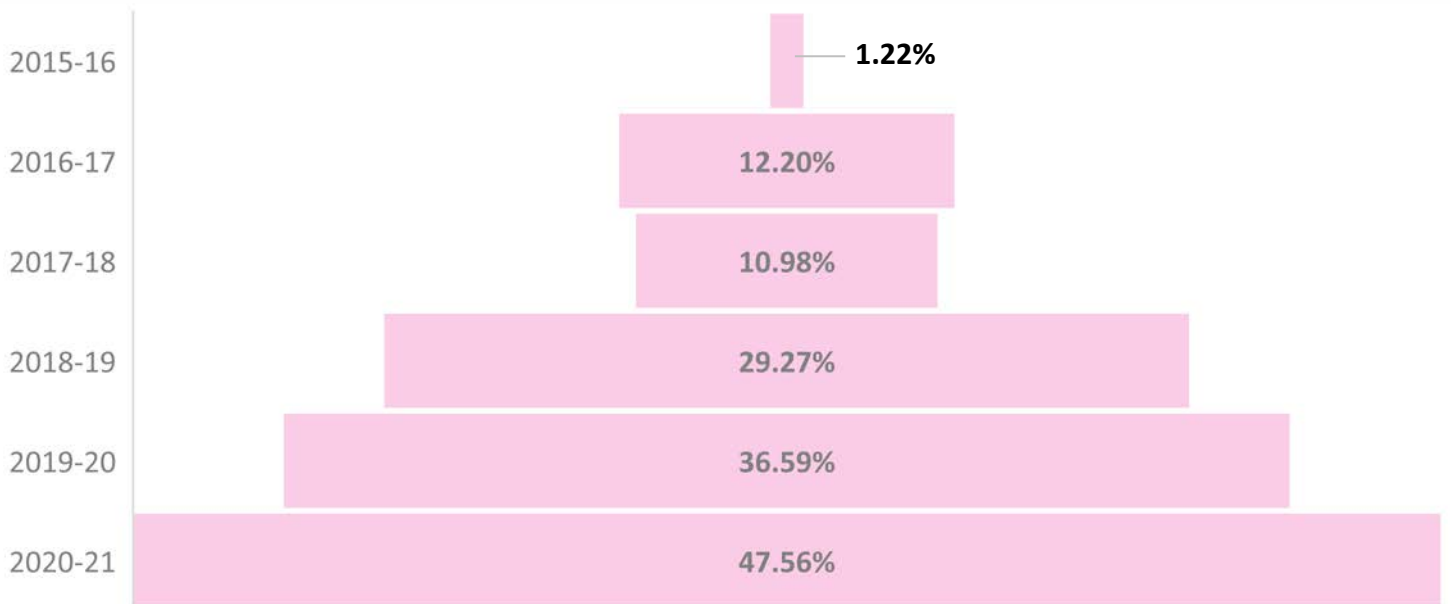
The number of schools in the Mid-West region that offered the NYSSB rose in 2020-21 to 39 schools, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Growth in the Number of Mid-West Region High Schools Offering the NYSSB (2016-2021)



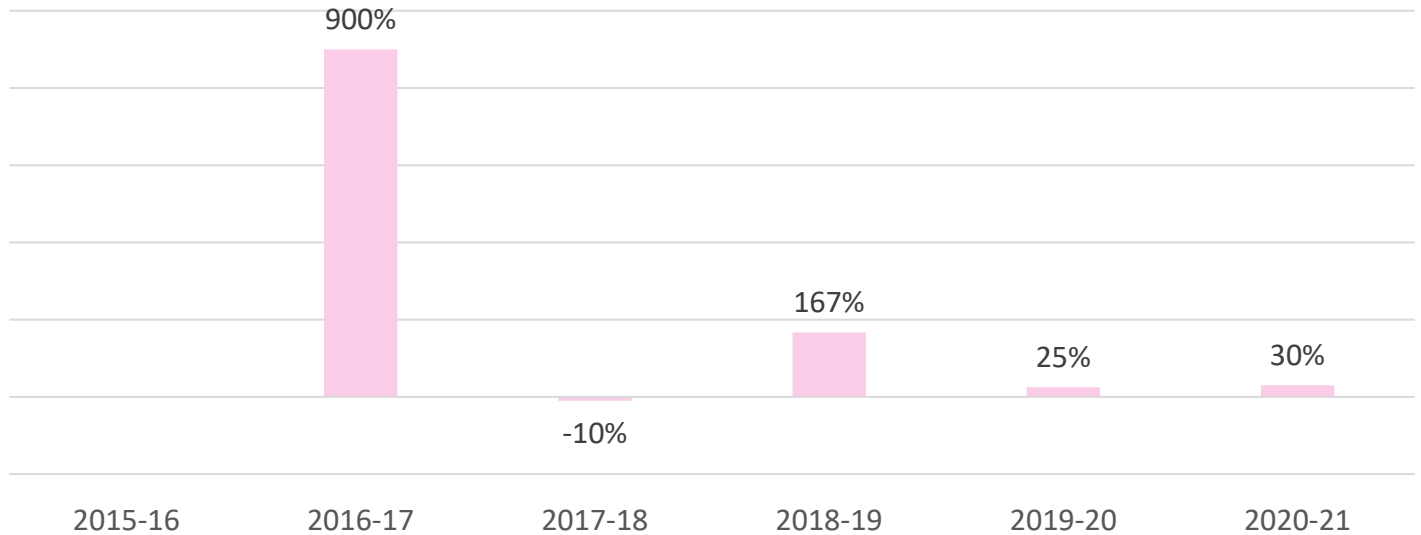
The Mid-West region is close to approaching an important milestone with more than 47% of its district high schools offering the NYSSB in 2020-21. One possible explanation for this achievement in the Mid-West region is the existence of a NYSSB consortium organized by the Mid-West RBERN at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES. This consortium brings together schools currently offering the NYSSB as well as those interested in doing so to work together under the guidance of Resource Specialist Shawna Sweet to review regulations, develop and strengthen their programs, and to network and problem-solve collaboratively. As demonstrated in the chart below, the percentage of schools in Mid-West region has experienced a steady growth over the last three years.

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



The growth rate in the number of schools offering the NYSSB in the Mid-West has seen significant variation, with a 900% increase in the number of schools offering the NYSSB in 2016-17, followed by a 10% decrease the following year, followed by a 167% increase in 2018-19. Over the last two years, the region has seen a 25% increase (2019-20) followed by a 30% increase (2020-21) in schools offering the NYSSB, suggesting a stabilization in the growth rate.

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



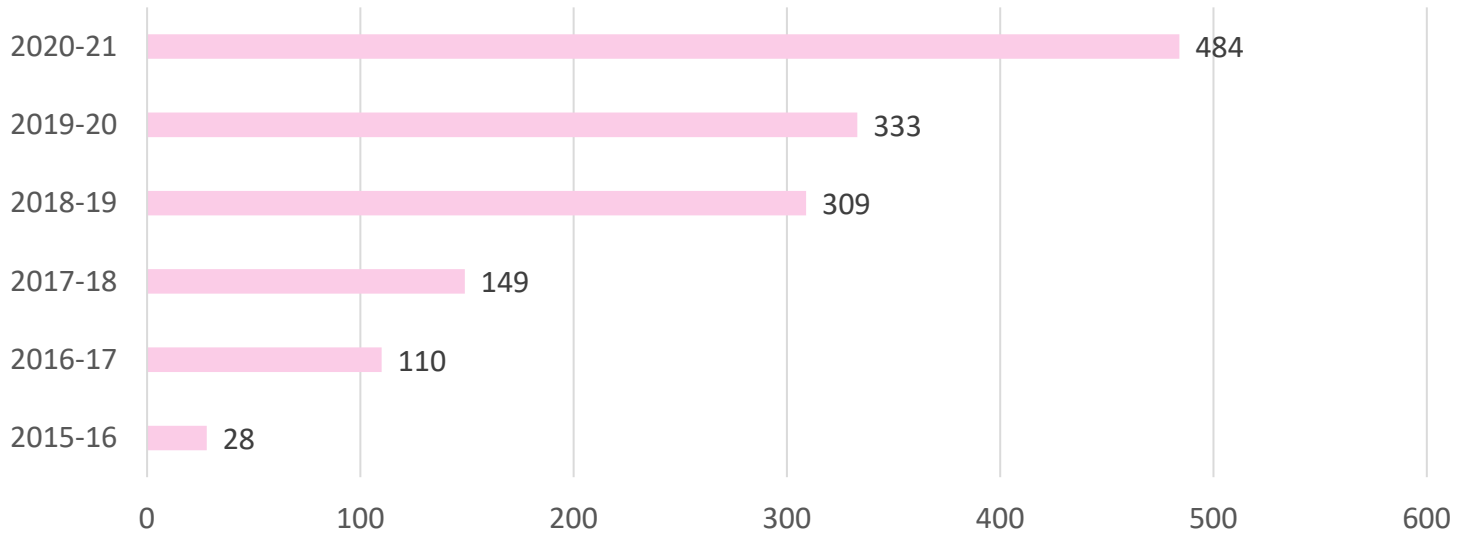
2021 NYSSB graduates from Webster Schroeder High School  
(Photo courtesy of Webster CSD)



## Students Who Earned the NYSSB

The number of students who earned the NYSSB in the Mid-West region grew substantially in 2020-21 to 484 students, up more than 45% from the prior year, the single highest growth rate in 2020-21 among all regions of New York.

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

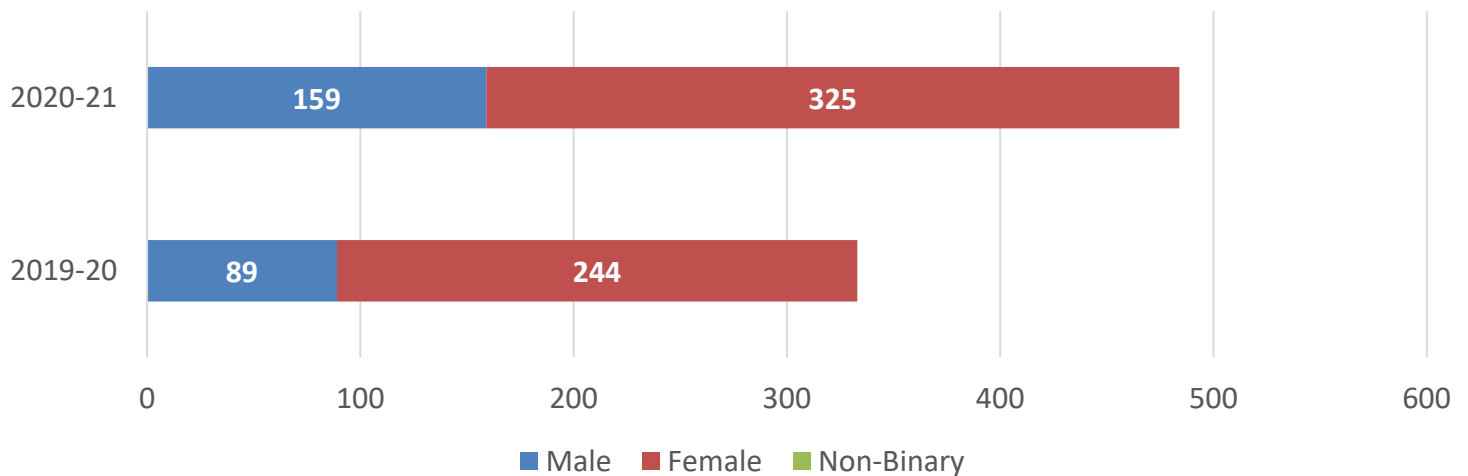


## Seal Earners by Gender

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

- Seal earners who identify as male represented 27% of all NYSSB earners from the Mid-West region in 2019-20, but rose to 33% in 2020-21, a gain of 6%.
- Seal earners who identify as female represented 73% of all NYSSB earners from the Mid-West region in 2019-20, but fell to 67% in 2020-21, a loss of 6%.
- 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 Mid-West region identified in this way in 2020-21.

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



### Seal Earners by Race and Ethnicity

When disaggregated by race and ethnicity, the data on Seal earners from the Mid-West region shows relatively stable levels of participation by students of different races and ethnicities, with gains and losses limited to six percentage points or less. The participation of White students in the NYSSB rose by 6% (from 65% to 70%). The participation of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students, Hispanic or Latino students, and Multiracial students dropped by 1%. The participation of Black or African American students fell by 3% (from 7% to 4%) and that of Hispanic students fell by 1% (from 19% to 18%).

Figure 9. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Mid-West Region by Race/Ethnicity (2020)

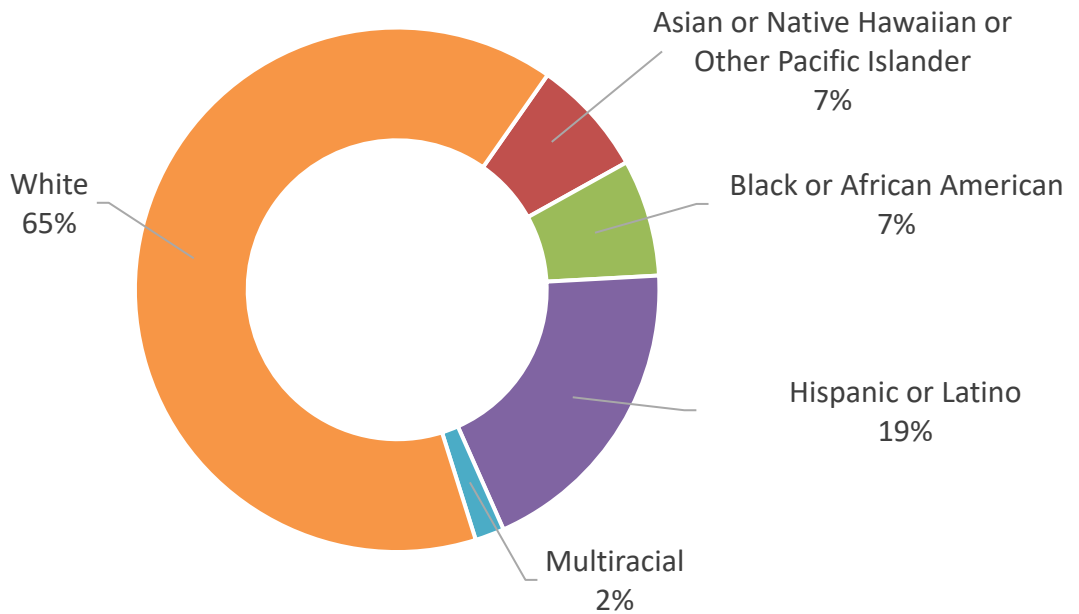
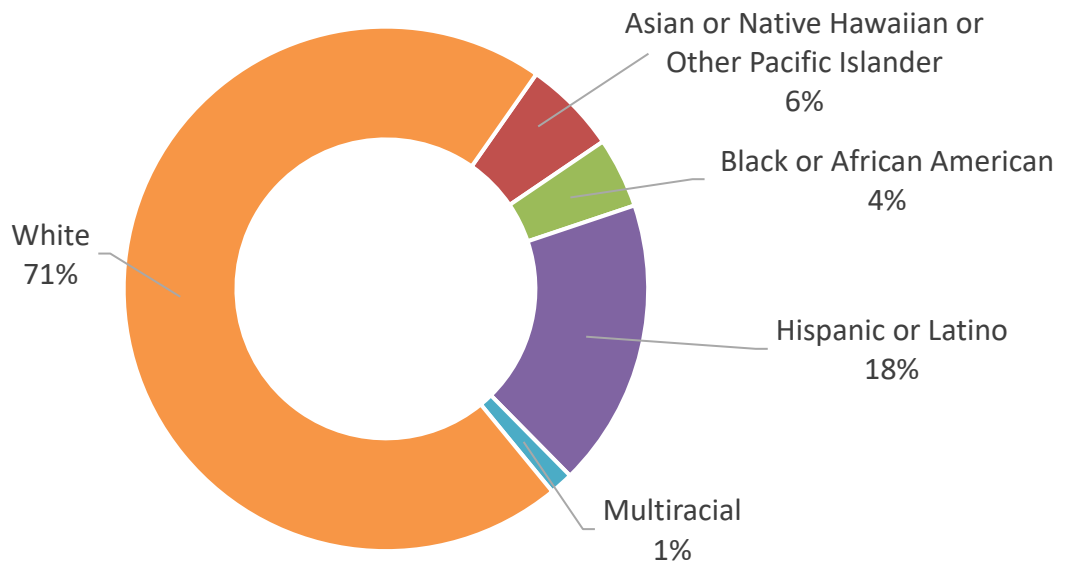


Figure 10. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Mid-West Region by Race/Ethnicity (2021)



### **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 Mid-West Region by ELL Status (2016-2021)*

|              | <b>ELLs</b> | <b>Ever ELLs</b> | <b>Never ELLs (Home Language = English)</b> | <b>Never ELLs (Home Language = Other Than English)*</b> |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2015-16      | 3           | 0                | 25                                          | n/a                                                     |
| 2016-17      | 10          | 3                | 97                                          | n/a                                                     |
| 2017-18      | 2           | 7                | 140                                         | n/a                                                     |
| 2018-19      | 24          | 34               | 251                                         | n/a                                                     |
| 2019-20      | 29          | 28               | 276                                         | n/a                                                     |
| 2020-21      | 39          | 40               | 375                                         | 30                                                      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>107</b>  | <b>112</b>       | <b>1,164</b>                                | <b>30</b>                                               |

\*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 Mid-West 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 Mid-West region has been growing steadily since 2018-19, adding between 5 and 10 students a year. To increase the number of Current ELLs participating in the NYSSB:

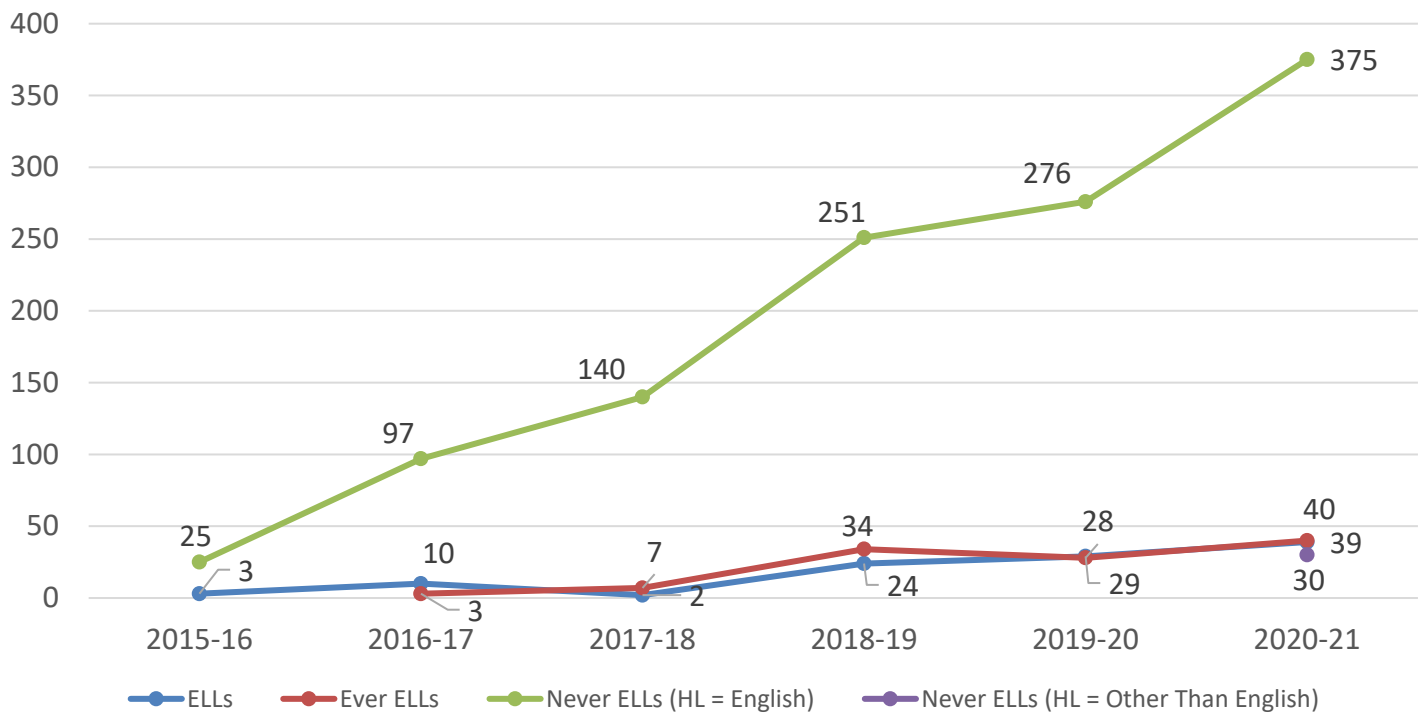
1. More schools in the Mid-West region are encouraged to sign on to offer the NYSSB, especially those with significant ELL and Former/Ever ELL populations. While more than 45% of the region’s district high schools offer the NYSSB, there is still room to recruit additional schools to offer this program.
2. Schools offering the NYSSB are encouraged to have systems in place to support students’ acquisition of English as well as the development 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/Former ELLs in the Mid-West region is rebounding after a 18% drop in the prior year. Never ELLs whose home language is English have historically represented the vast majority of Seal earners, not only within the Mid-West region, but across New York State. This population of Seal earners has shown the most drastic growth within the region, from 25 Seal earners in the first year the NYSSB was offered to over 370 in 2020-21, representing an almost fifteen-fold growth rate 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 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 school. A total of 30 Never ELLs who home language (HL) is other than English earned the NYSSB in the Mid-West region in 2020-21.

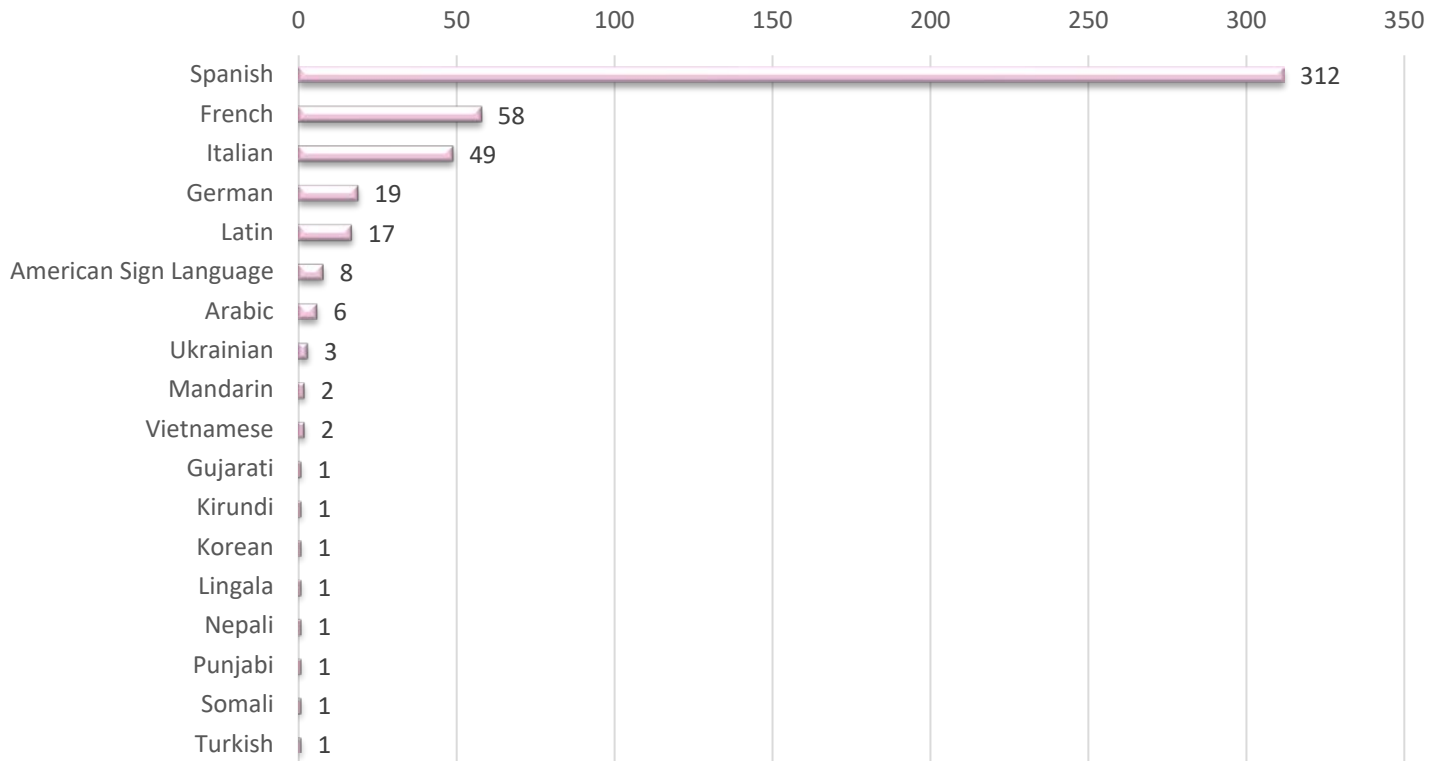
Figure 11. Number of Students Who Earned the NYSSB in the Mid-West Region by ELL Status (2016-2021)



### Seal Earners by Language

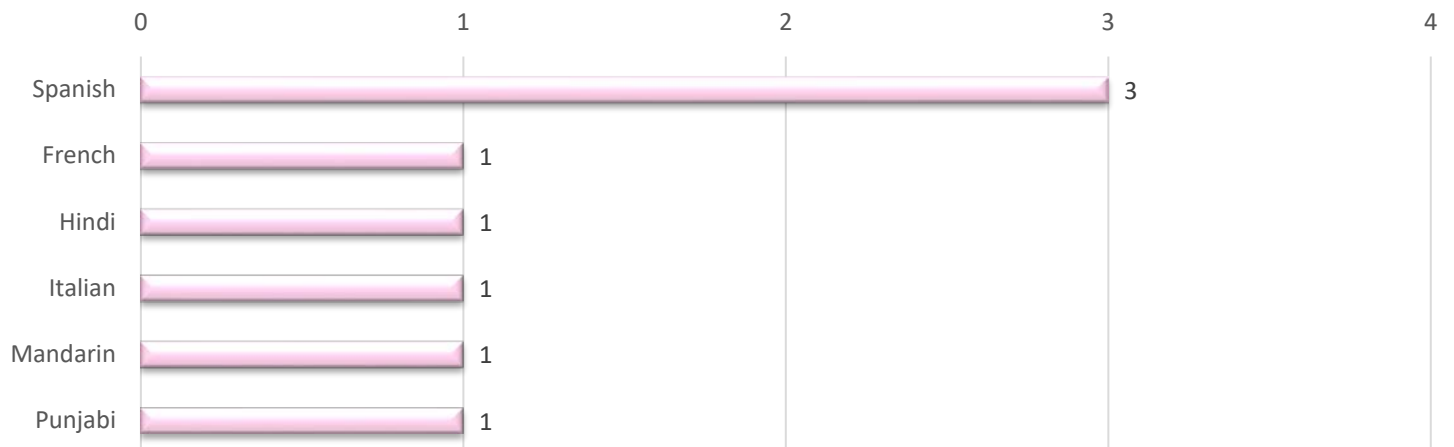
Students from the Mid-West region earned the NYSSB in Albanian, American Sign Language, Arabic, Bisaya/Cebuano, Chuukese, English, French, German, Gujarati, Japanese, Latin, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Urdu. Figure 12 shows the world languages other than English in which students earned the NYSSB in the Mid-West region, ranked from most to least frequent.

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



Eight students were awarded the NYSSB 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 Mid-West Region in Two World Languages in Addition to English (2021)

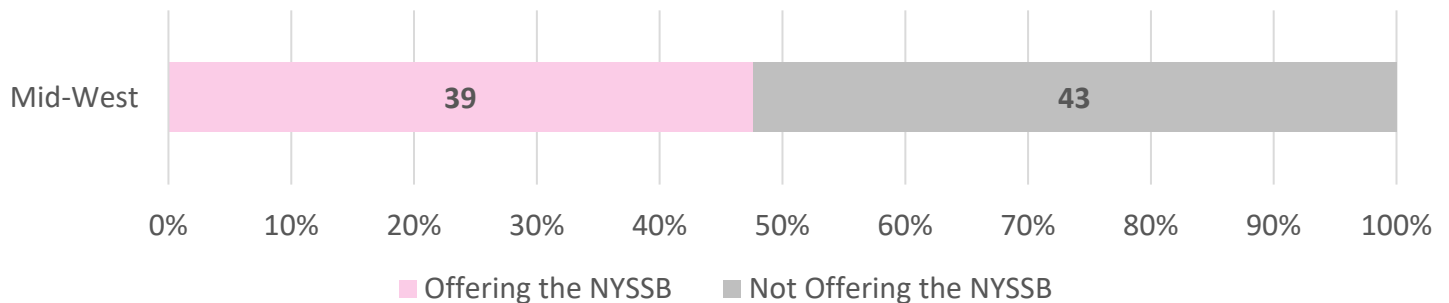


## Areas for Potential Growth of the NYSSB in the Mid-West Region

### Schools

There is significant potential for growth within this region that has 43 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 Mid-West Region Offering vs. Not Offering the NYSSB\* (2021)

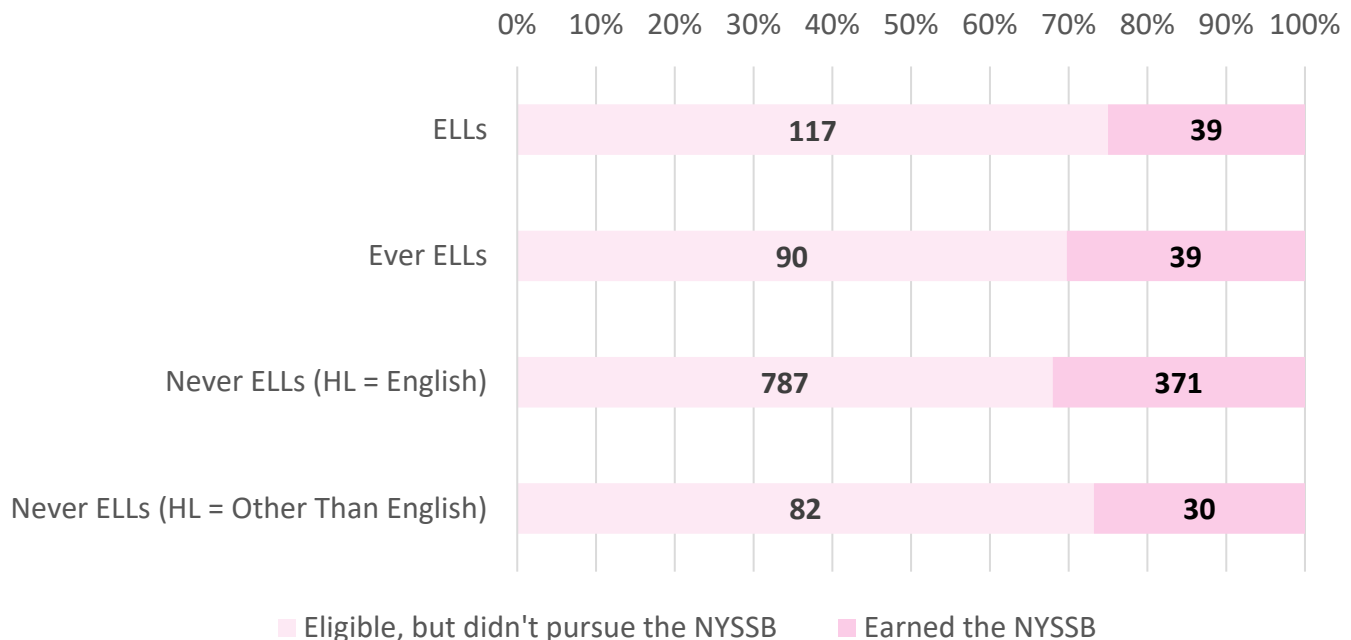


\*The number of schools that offered the NYSSB in this region in 2020-21 includes 38 district schools and one charter school. However, the number shaded in grey represents only the remaining district schools in the region that did not offer the NYSSB in that year. Statewide, there are only a handful of charter and non-public schools that have offered the NYSSB.

### Students

In the Mid-West region, as in most regions, the largest group of students earning the NYSSB are Never ELLs whose home language 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 Mid-West 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 Mid-West 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 Franklin Upper School  
(Photo courtesy of Rochester CSD)*