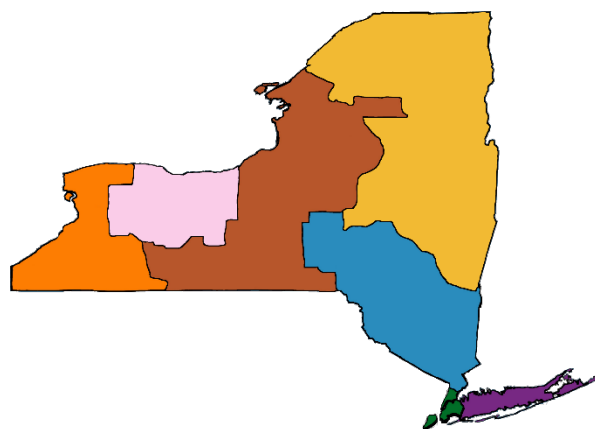
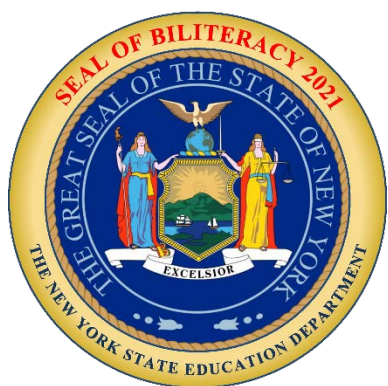


The New York State Seal of Biliteracy in the New York City Region



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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The New York City Region

The New York City region, represented by the area in green on the map on the right, is made up of the counties of: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond. The New York City region is the most populous and diverse region of the state. As such, there are multiple layers of support available. District schools in the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) work directly with the NYCDOE Division of Multilingual Learners (DML) and Borough-Citywide Offices during the NYSSB process.

The New York City region is also supported by the New York City Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) at Fordham University. This RBERN provides services to districts in all five boroughs, including technical assistance, professional learning opportunities for teachers of ELLs, and the collaborative accountability initiative. The RBERN's ultimate goal is to assist school communities in reflecting on teacher practice and school programs and structures to ensure that ELLs in New York City attain the highest level of academic success and language proficiency.

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

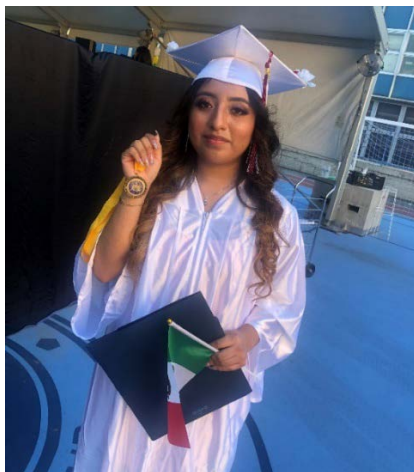


Contacts

NYCDOE district schools should contact the Division of Multilingual Learners, Email: dml@schools.nyc.gov

Charter and non-public schools in the New York City Region should contact:
New York City RBERN @ Fordham University
Lincoln Center, 113 W. 60th St., Rm. 1008C, New York, NY 10023, Tel: (718) 817-0606
[Link to website](#) * Email: nycrbern@fordham.edu

This regional report analyzes the participation in the NYSSB of schools within the New York City region, including NYCDOE district schools, as well as that of charter and non-public schools located within the region. An infographic summary of the NYSSB in the New York City region for 2020-21 can be found on the following two pages in Figure 3.



*2021 NYSSB
graduates from
Esperanza
Preparatory
Academy*

*(Photos courtesy
of Esperanza
Preparatory
Academy,
NYCDOE)*




Figure 3. Infographic Summary of the NYSSB in the New York City Region (2021)




NYS Seal of Biliteracy


New York City Region 2020-21





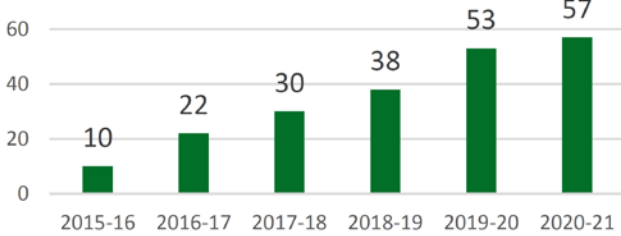
The New York Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) recognizes students from district, charter, and non-public schools who have attained a **high level of proficiency in two or more world languages** (one of which must be English) by high school graduation. It acknowledges the importance of biliteracy in today's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

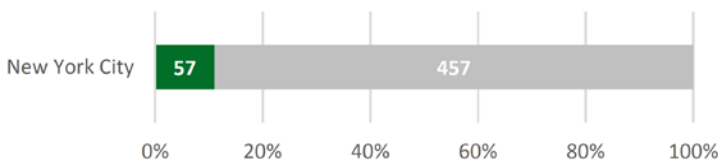
Number of Schools Offering the NYSSB in the New York City Region (2016-2021)



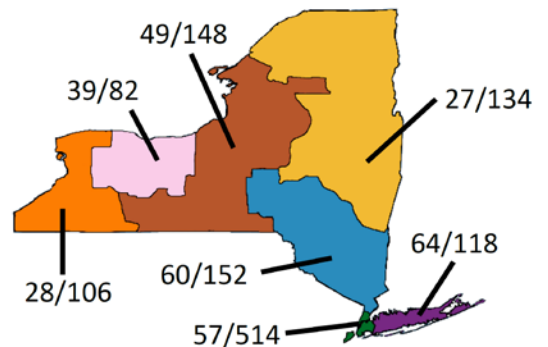
11.1%

of district schools in the New York City region offered the NYSSB in 2020-21.

Number of District Schools Offering vs. Not Offering the NYSSB in the New York City Region (2020-21)



*There are three charter schools and one non-public school offering the NYSSB that are included in the total (57) schools.



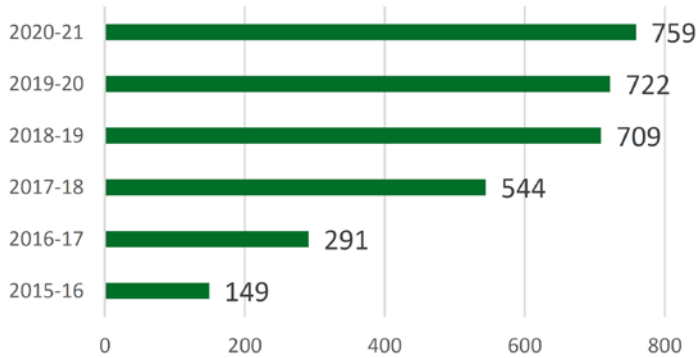
The ratios listed are the number of schools offering the NYSSB to the total number of district schools in the region.

Languages in which New York City students earned the NYSSB in 2020-21

Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, English, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Soninke, Spanish, and Urdu

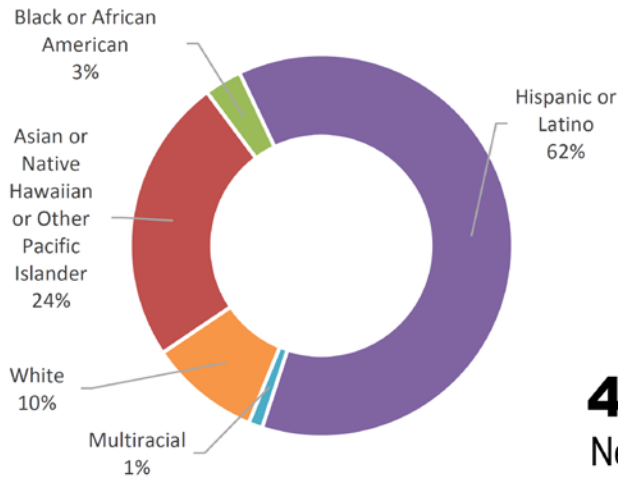
759 students from the New York City region earned the NYSSB in 2020-21.

NYSSB Earners in the New York City Region (2016-2021)



Despite the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, the number of students from the New York City region earning the NYSSB continues to increase.

Percentage of Students who Earned the NYSSB in the New York City Region by Race/Ethnicity (2020-21)



1 Student from the New York City region earned the NYSSB in **three** world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.



4 Students from the New York City region earned the NYSSB in **two** world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.

Seal Earners by Gender

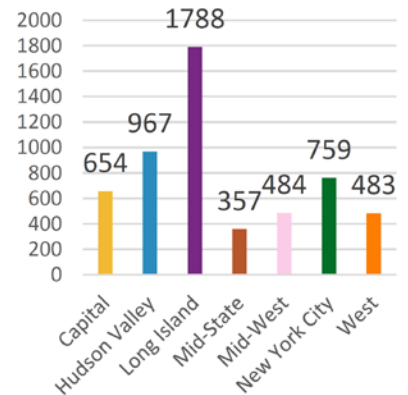

543
(Female)


216
(Male)

Seal Earners by ELL Status

Current ELLs	179
Former/Ever ELLs	333
Never ELLs - Home Language = English	105
Never ELLs - Home Language ≠ English	142

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.



NYCDOE schools should contact DML@schools.nyc.gov to get started with the NYSSB. Your local RBERN can also provide support for your Seal of Biliteracy Program.
New York City RBERN @ Fordham University
Lincoln Center, 113 W. 60th St., Rm. 1008C, New York, NY 10023, Tel: (718) 817-0606
[Link to website](#) * Email: nycrbern@fordham.edu

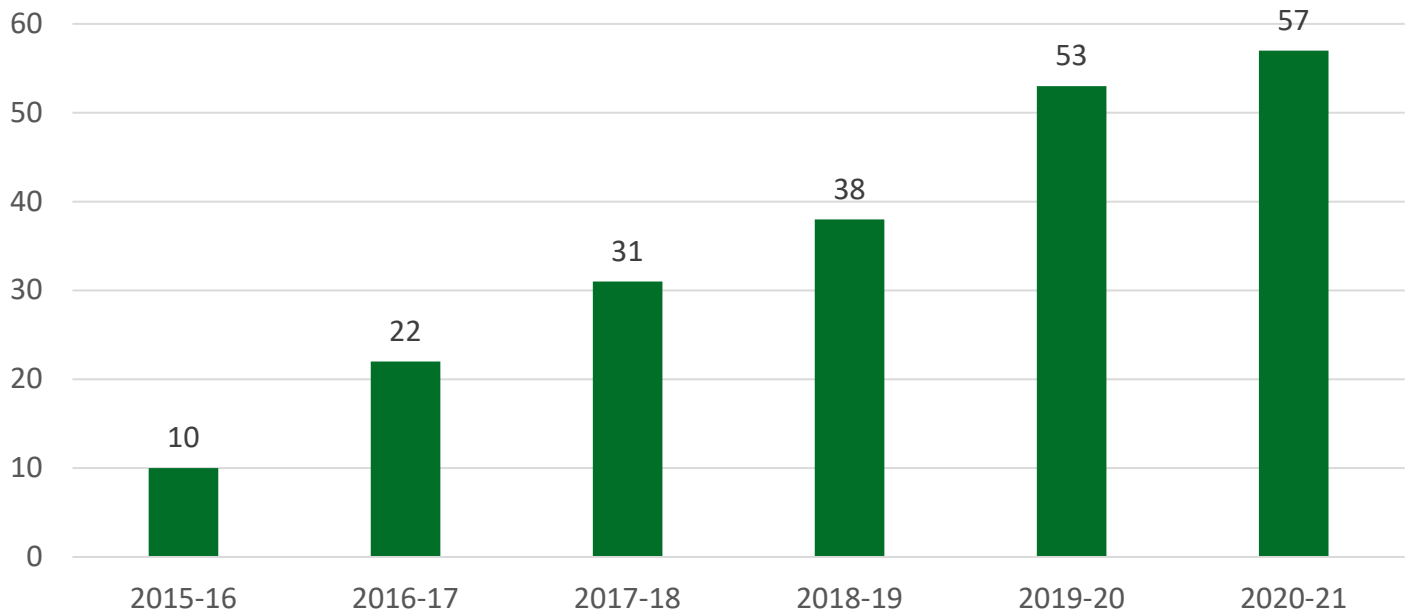


Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages, New York State Education Department
[NYSSB Website](#), Email: nyssb@nysed.gov

Schools that Offered the NYSSB

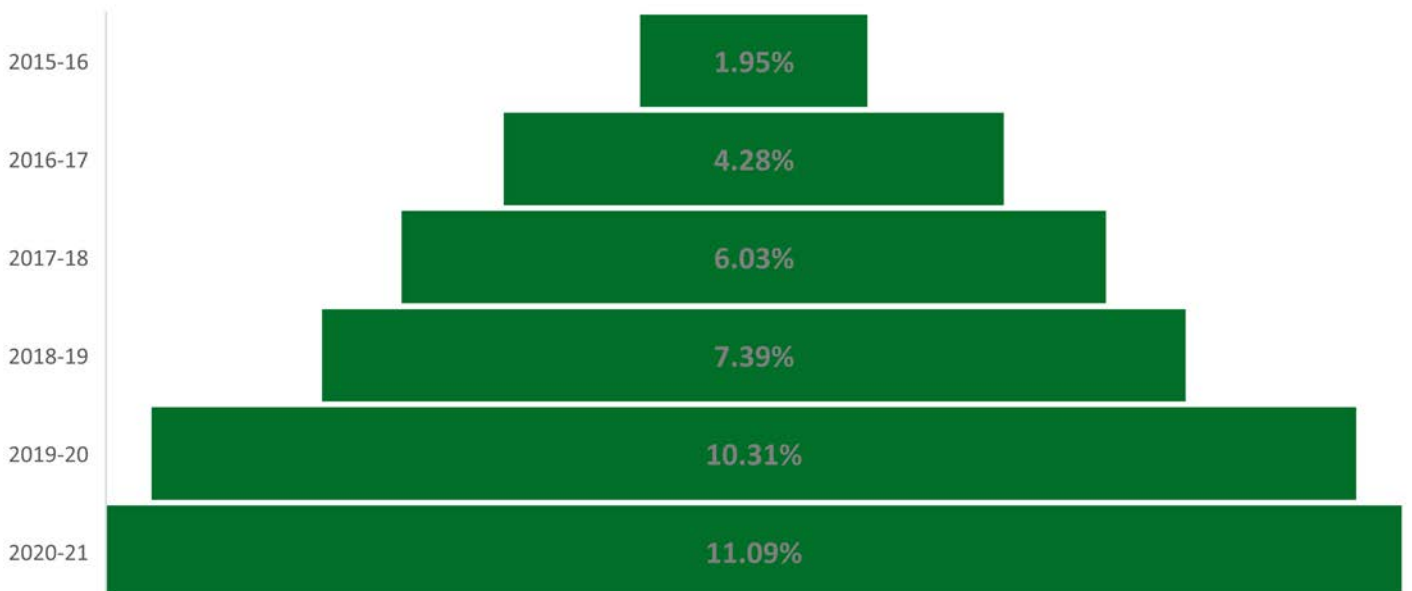
The number of schools in the New York City region that offered the NYSSB rose in 2020-21 to 57 schools, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Growth in the Number of New York City Region High Schools Offering the NYSSB (2016-2021)



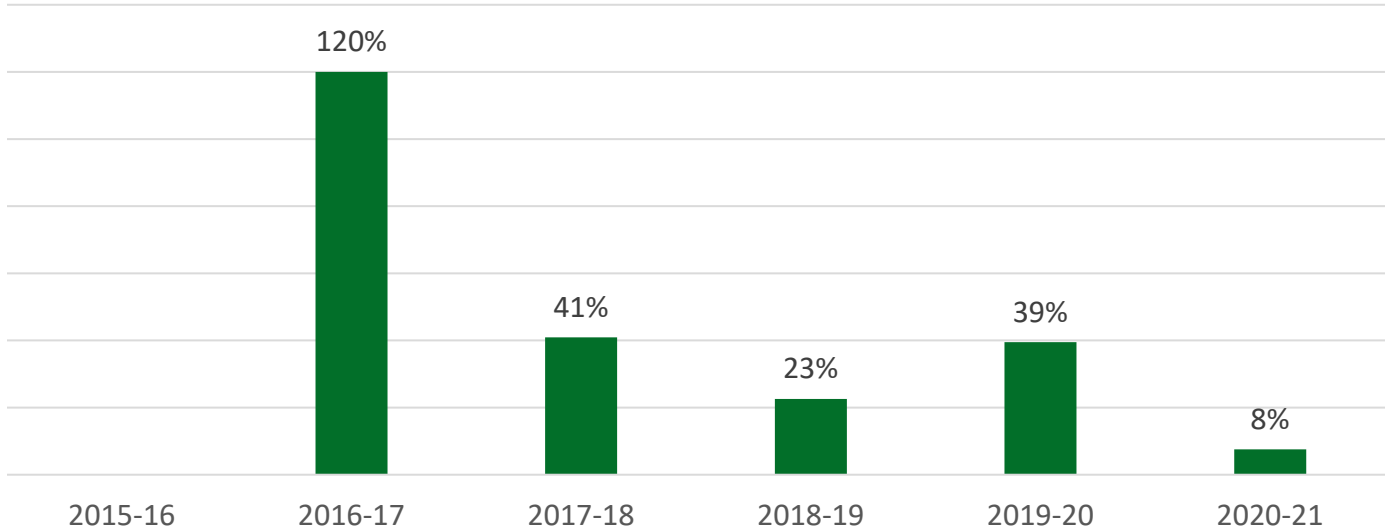
Of the 57 schools in the New York City region that offered the NYSSB in 2020-21, 53 were NYCDOE district schools, three were charters schools, and one was a non-public school. These 57 schools represented just over 11% of district high schools in the region, or about 1 in every 10 district high schools. As demonstrated in the chart below, the percentage of schools in the New York City region has experienced steady growth from the first year the NYSSB was offered in 2015-16, starting at only 1.95% and growing to 11% in five years.

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



The growth rate in the number of schools offering the NYSSB in the New York City region has been between 27% and 39% for the last few years. While still positive, the growth rate in 2020-21 was only 8%, the smallest since schools in New York City began offering the NYSSB. This is most likely due to New York City being the area of the state most impacted by COVID-19.

Figure 6. Percentage of Growth in Number of Schools in the New York City Region Offering the NYSSB (2016-2021)

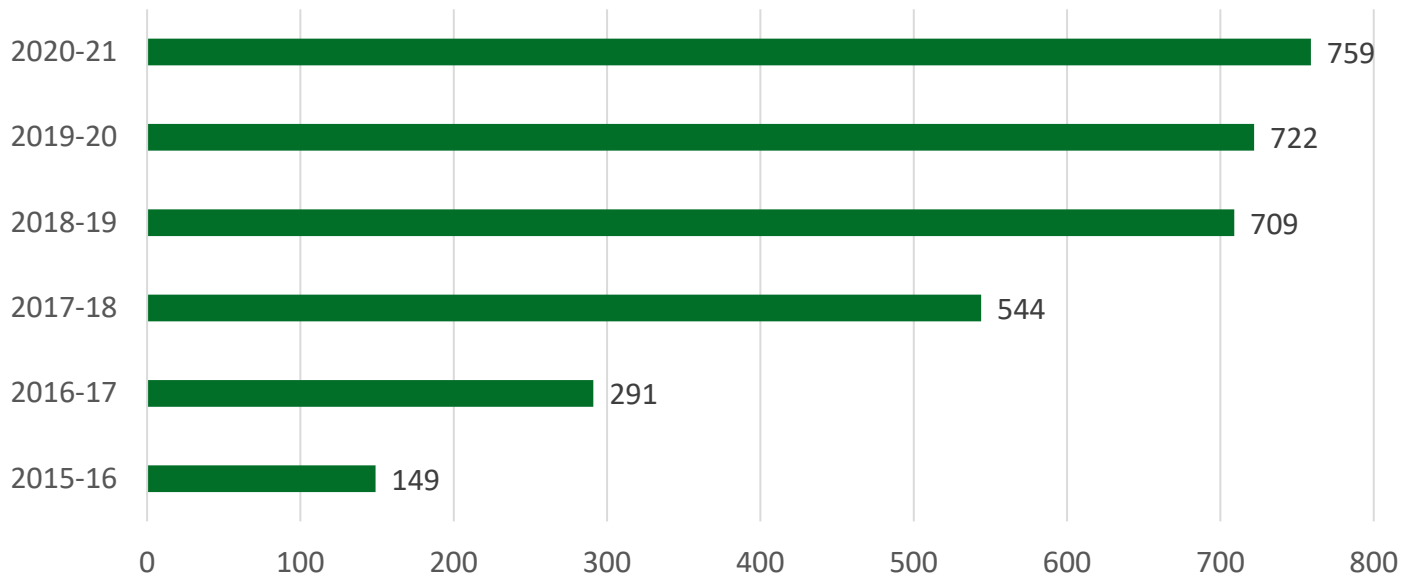


2021 NYSSB graduates from Edward R. Murrow High School
(Photos courtesy of Edward R. Murrow High School, NYCDOE)

Students Who Earned the NYSSB

The number of students who earned the NYSSB in the New York City region continued to grow in 2020-21 to 759 students, up more than 5% from the prior year, as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the New York City Region (2016-2021)

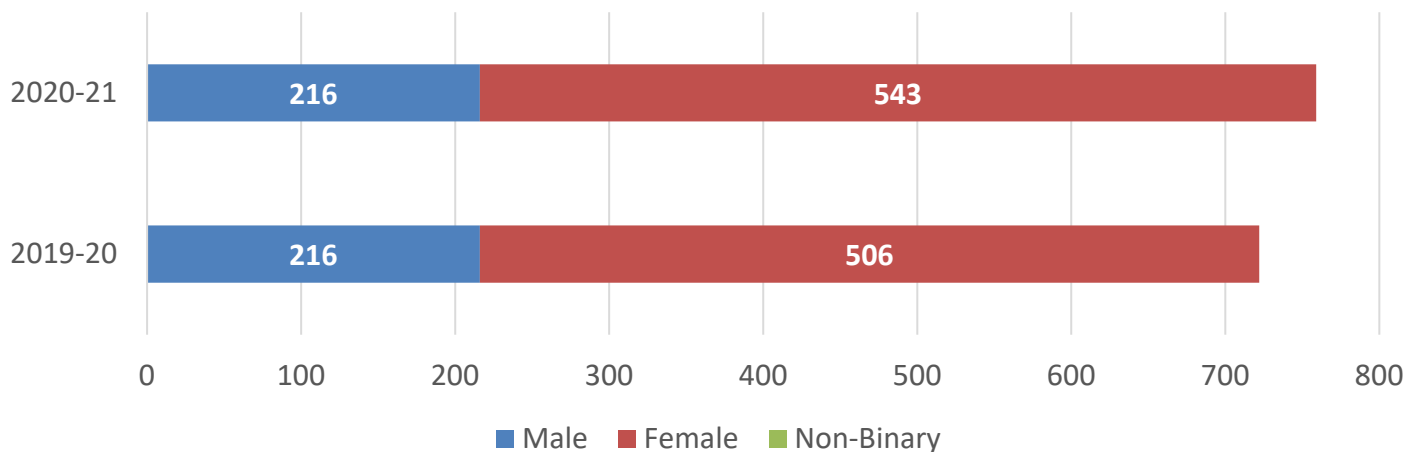


Seal Earners by Gender

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

- The same number of students who identify as male (216) earned the NYSSB in the New York City region in each of the last two years, however, those who identify as male made up 30% of all Seal earners in 2019-20 and 28% in 2020-21, a 2% decrease.
- The number of students who identify as female represented 70% of all NYSSB earners from the region in 2019-20, which rose to 72% in 2020-21, a gain of 2%.
- 2020-21 was the first year that students earning the NYSSB were able to identify as non-binary. There were no NYSSB earners from the New York City area that were reported as identifying in this way in 2020-21.

Figure 8. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the New York City Region by Gender (2020-2021)



Seal Earners by Race and Ethnicity

When disaggregated by race and ethnicity, the data on Seal earners in the New York City region shows relatively stable levels of participation by students of different races and ethnicities. The only group to increase its participation rate in the NYSSB were Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander students, who rose from 18% to 24% from 2019-20 to 2020-21. All other groups decreased slightly (3% or less) over the same time period. Participation of Black or African American students dropped 1% (from 4% to 3%), Hispanic or Latino student participation dropped by 3% (65% to 62%), Multiracial student participation dropped 1% (2% to 1%), and White student participation in the NYSSB dropped 1% (from 11% to 10%) in 2020-21.

Figure 9. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the New York City Region by Race/Ethnicity (2020)

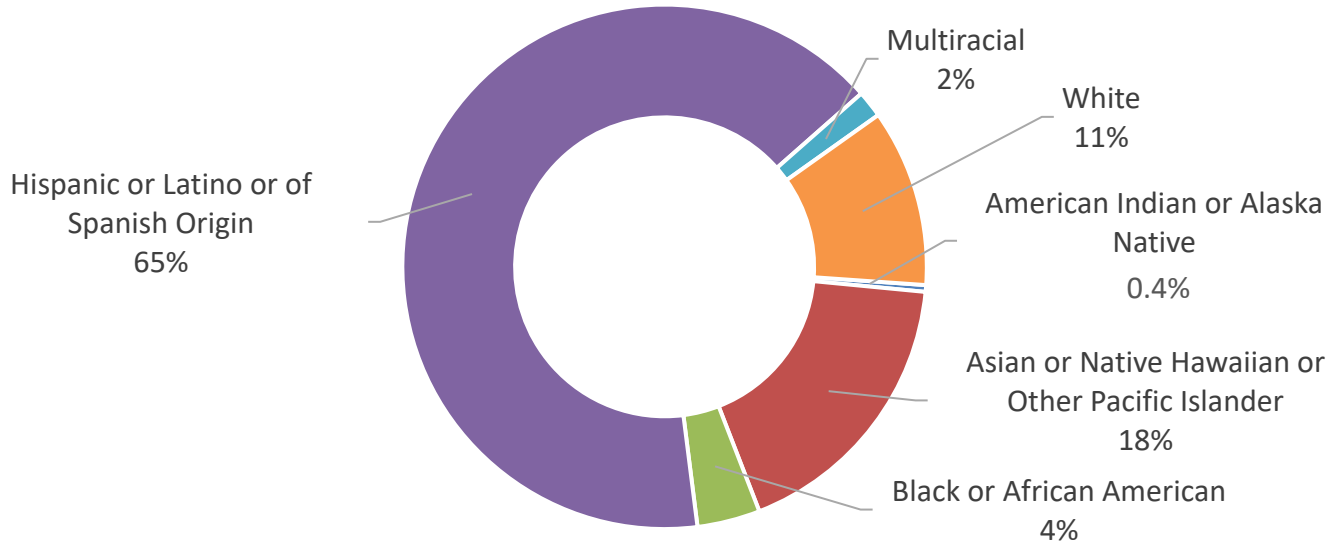
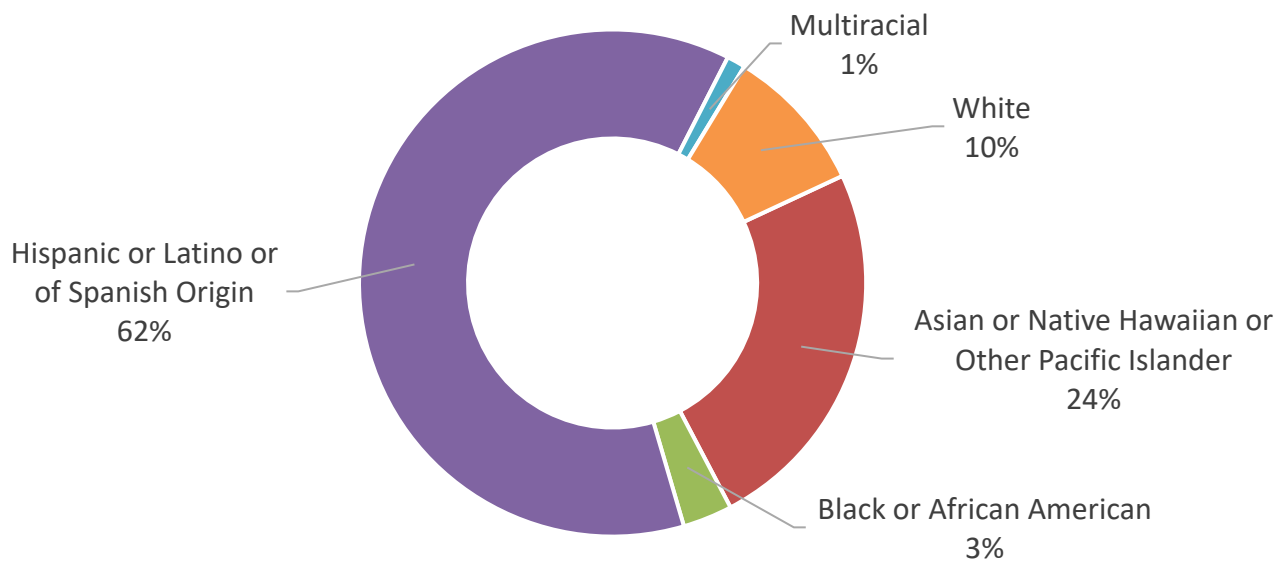


Figure 10. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the New York City Region by Race/Ethnicity (2021)



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 New York City Region by ELL Status (2016-2021)

	ELLs	Ever ELLs	Never ELLs (Home Language = English)	Never ELLs (Home Language = Other Than English)*
2015-16	18	84	47	n/a
2016-17	28	154	109	n/a
2017-18	55	312	177	n/a
2018-19	83	440	186	n/a
2019-20	48	427	247	n/a
2020-21	179	333	105	142
Total	411	1,750	871	142

*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.

The rich cultural and linguistic diversity of New York City is clearly being capitalized upon by schools in the region actively recruiting ELLs and Former/Ever ELLs to pursue the NYSSB. In 2020-21, the number of ELLs earning the NYSSB outnumbered Never ELLs whose home language is English by almost two to one. In the same year, the number of Former/Ever ELLs earning the NYSSB outnumbered Never ELLs whose home language is English by more than three to one. To increase the number of Current ELLs participating in the NYSSB:

1. More schools in the New York City region are encouraged to sign on to offer the NYSSB. A little more than one in every 10 district high schools offered the NYSSB in 2020-21. NYCDOE district schools are encouraged to reach out to their Borough/Citywide Offices and DML to receive school-wide student-level data, professional learning, and ongoing support to assist them in identifying students who could potentially earn the NYSSB and provide the appropriate supports in the NYSSB languages. Charter and

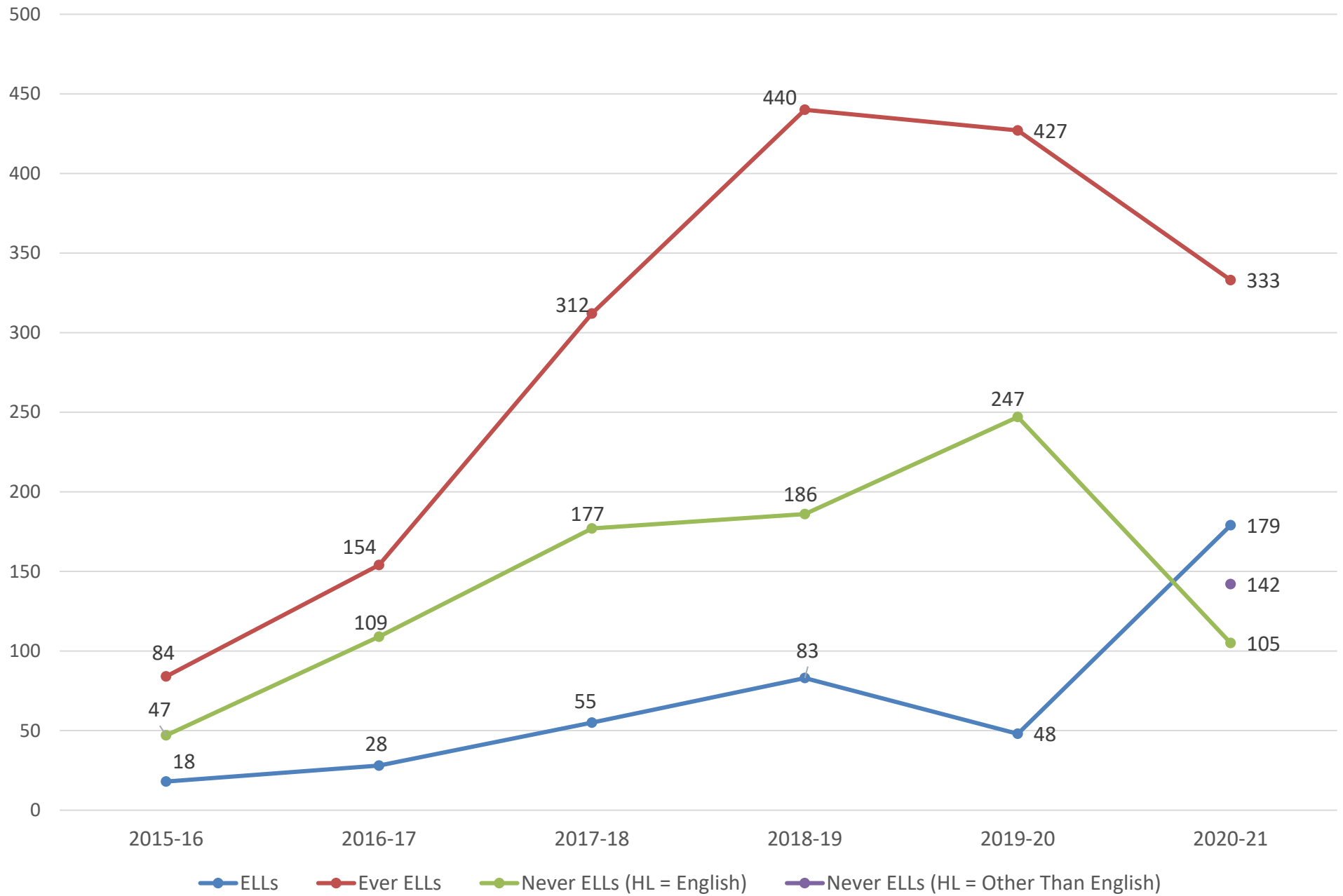
non-public schools within the New York City region are encouraged to reach out to the New York City RBERN for more information on the NYSSB.

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 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.

In New York City exists the largest concentration of both ELLs and Former/Ever ELLs. There continues to be great potential for even more of these students to be recognized for their language proficiency through the NYSSB. While the number of current ELLs who have earned the NYSSB in New York City has varied over the last six years (from a low of 18 to a high of 179), the number of Ever/Former ELLs has consistently been over 300 for the last four years, reaching its peak in 2018-19 with 439 students. The number of Never ELLs whose home language is English has also varied greatly over the last six years (from a low of 47 in 2015-16, to a peak of 247 in 2019-20, to 105 in 2020-21). As the hardest hit by the pandemic of all of the regions of the state, the participation in the NYSSB by Ever ELLs and Never ELLs whose home language is English experienced a decrease that correlates with the COVID pandemic. It is important to note that in 2020-21, despite the pandemic, the number of ELLs who earned the NYSSB in New York City not only increased, but more than tripled (from 48 to 179).

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 often face challenges in identifying these students as potential NYSSB applicants since they were not identified as ELLs and may speak a language that is not taught in their schools. The Division of Multilingual Learners of the NYCDOE supports schools by providing school-wide student-level data, professional learning, and ongoing support to help schools identify students who could potentially earn the NYSSB and provide the appropriate supports in the NYSSB languages. In 2020-21, more than 140 Never ELLs whose home language (HL) is other than English earned the NYSSB.

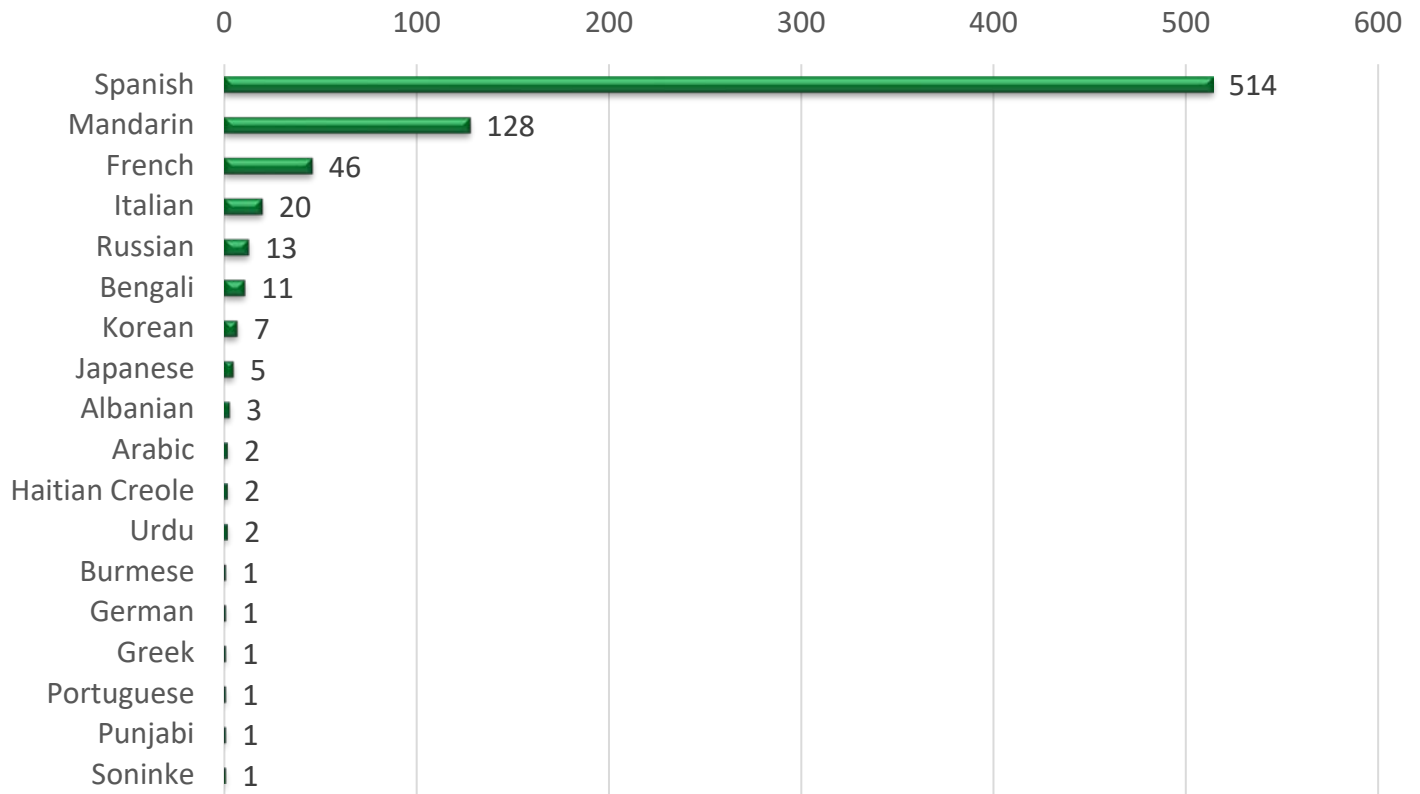
Figure 11. Number of Students Who Earned the NYSSB in the New York City Region by ELL Status (2016-2021)



Seal Earners by Language

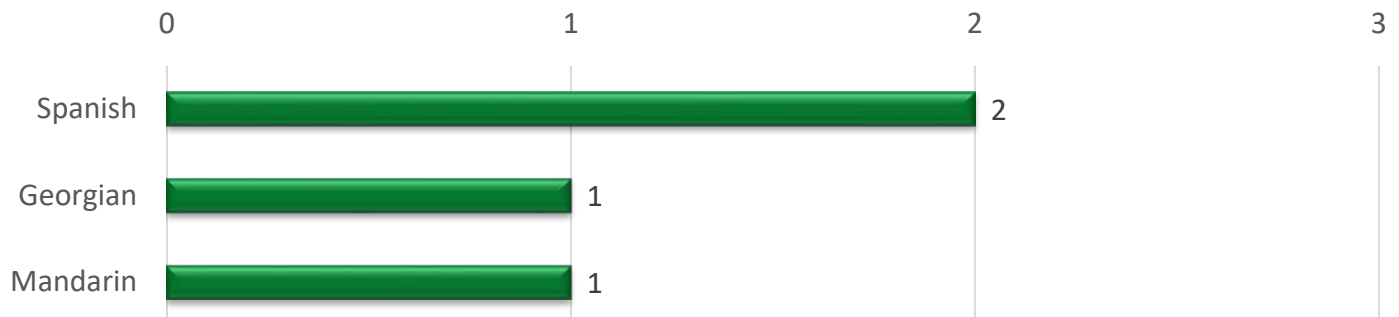
Students from the New York City region earned the NYSSB in Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, English, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Soninke, Spanish, and Urdu. Figure 12 shows the world languages other than English in which students earned the NYSSB in the New York City region, ranked from most to least frequent.

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



Four students from the New York City region 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 New York City Region in Two World Languages in Addition to English (2021)

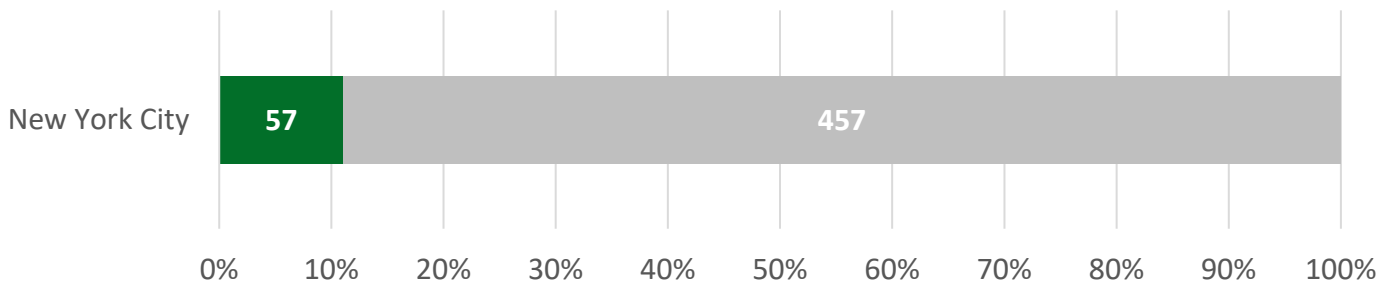


Areas for Potential Growth of the NYSSB in the New York City Region

Schools

There is significant potential for growth within this region that has over 450 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 New York City Region Offering vs. Not Offering the NYSSB* (2021)

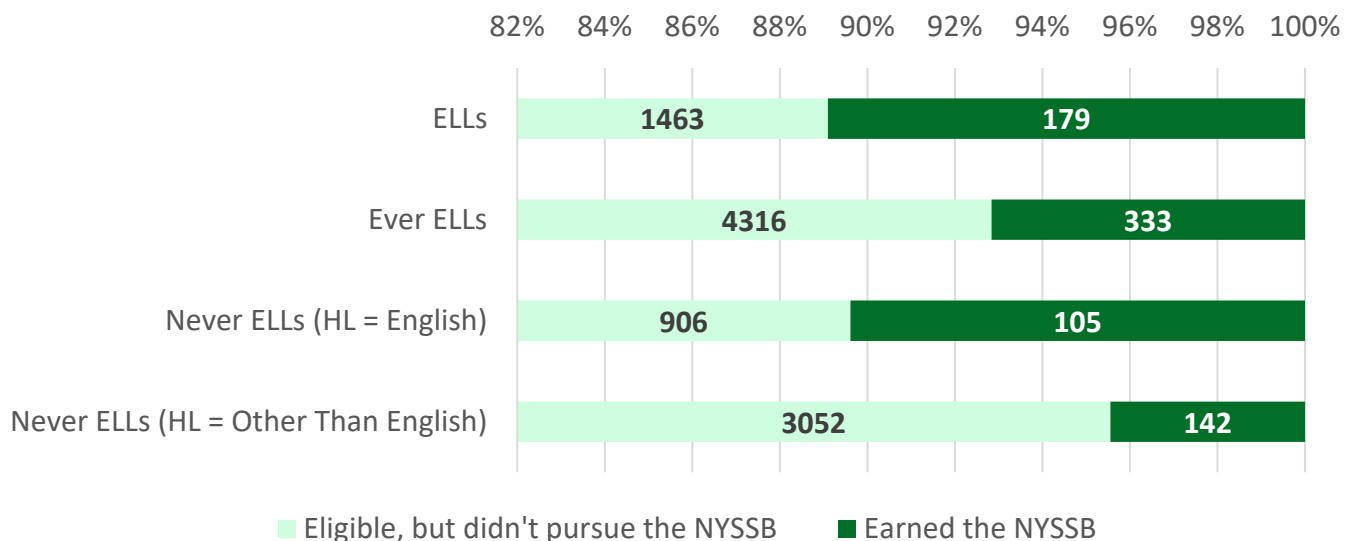


*The number of schools that offered the NYSSB in this region in 2020-21 includes 53 NYCDOE district schools, three charter schools, and one non-public school. However, the number shaded in grey represents only the remaining NYCDOE district schools in the region that did not offer the NYSSB in that year. Statewide, there are only a handful of charter and non-public schools that have offered the NYSSB.

Students

In the New York City region, the largest group of students earning the NYSSB are Ever ELLs (333), followed by current ELLs (179), Never ELLs who home language is other than English (142), and finally, Never ELLs who home language is English (105). This contrasts with every other region of the state in which ELLs and Ever ELLs make up a much smaller percentage of Seal Earners. Figure 15 below shows the total students in the New York City 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 New York City 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 from Esperanza Preparatory Academy
(Photo courtesy of Esperanza Preparatory Academy, NYCDOE)*