

Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

New York State Education Department
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February 2022 Newsletter

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Greetings from Associate Commissioner Elisa Alvarez

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I greet you once again. This month has provided us with an exciting opportunity as a state agency, along with our brothers and sisters from the Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks, to represent the community of Bilingual Education. Collectively, we had the ability to share our work and tell our story at the 51st Annual International Conference of the National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE).

The New York State Education Department was well represented with conference-wide addresses from our Chancellor Dr. Lester W. Young Jr., Commissioner Dr. Betty Rosa, and Regent At-Large, Dr. Luis O. Reyes. This international conference was a wonderful opportunity to learn from others and most importantly to strengthen our commitment as a unified family of advocates and educators.

In presenting our work, we were able to validate our mission to build a globally diverse multilingual society. This path was established by courageous advocates who ensured that our cause became recognized as law. Beginning in 1968 with the Bilingual Education Act and presently with our 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act, emphasis remains on respecting all students and their native/home language, while providing them the right to develop English language proficiency without limiting their access to instruction offered to all students.



In celebrating some of our work, the Blueprint for English Language Learner and Multilingual Learner Success continues to be our guidance, with eight principles designed to help understand that “all teachers are teachers of ELLs.” The linguistic needs of our children, who speak over 200 languages, constitutes our call to action in welcoming diversity, equity, and inclusion. As your representatives and partners in the work, we have published guides focused on our early multilingual learners, digital equity, instructional modules in science and literacy, and support of metalinguistic awareness. We are currently engaged in ensuring access for our students within career and technical education while addressing their social and emotional well-being. Our commitment endures!

We also celebrate the commitment of district and school building leaders, teachers, and parents. All our stakeholders have maintained that their hearts are united for the good of all children.

In unity,

Elisa Alvarez

Meet Regent Aramina Vega Ferrer

Aramina Vega Ferrer, Ph.D., represents the 12th Judicial District (Bronx County) as a member of the New York State Board of Regents. A long-time Bronx resident, Dr. Ferrer was inspired to pursue a career in education through her high school membership and leadership in ASPIRA, where she was actively engaged in learning about the history, culture and literature of her native Puerto Rico, and first learned how to advocate on behalf for her community. Dr. Ferrer has over 30 years of K-12 teaching and leadership experience in the development and implementation of innovative instructional programs for culturally and linguistically diverse student populations. As district supervisor of bilingual programs and later school principal, Regent Ferrer implemented model Dual Language programs for students in developing biliteracy skills in English and Spanish. Most recently, she was associate professor of Literacy and Multilingual Studies in the School of Education at Mercy College.



Associate Commissioner Elisa Alvarez spoke with Regent Ferrer about her priorities for education in New York State. A summary of that conversation follows:

What are the primary challenges of English Language Learners (ELLs)?

According to Regent Ferrer, the most significant challenge that ELLs continue to face is the widely-held notion that they are at a deficit in their education because they speak another language at home. She suggested that this view be discarded in favor of an asset-based approach to educating culturally and linguistically diverse learners.

Regent Ferrer offered that as educators teach ELLs English as a new language throughout New York State classrooms, they must seek to build on their students' linguistic assets and cultural strengths which also benefit peers in the classroom. She provided, as an example, the power of teaching with authentic multicultural texts by authors from our students' own cultures in mainstream classrooms— ELLs develop a sense of ownership and pride in their own culture and non-ELLs gain exposure and understanding of diverse world languages and the cultures of their classmates.

What role does Family Engagement play in the success of ELLs?

Regent Ferrer indicated that much of her research as a professor of literacy focused on parent engagement efforts with K-12 schools in the Bronx in partnership with college faculty. The best lessons on parent engagement have come directly from the parents themselves in workshops and seminars. As she shared, "without exception, every parent expresses a genuine desire to be involved in meaningful ways in their own child's education," and it is our responsibility, as educators, to provide them the means to do so. This applies to all parents.

As a teacher and school principal, Regent Ferrer observed that the main barrier to parent involvement in schools is finding the right time to communicate with their children's school. She suggested that districts implement practices that help parents overcome this challenge by hiring parent coordinators for outreach, scheduling time for teachers to communicate regularly with parents, creating after-school and weekend family literacy programs, and more. Further, these efforts must include an array of supports for new immigrant families: "Parent engagement for our immigrant families must be concerted, intentional and direct, including translations for all school communications and documents, along with language specific workshops and interpreters for parent meetings."

What are the goals of our Board of Regents in relation to ELLs?

Regent Ferrer believes the value of multilingualism should be promoted among our students and their families throughout New York State, making the New York State Seal of Biliteracy accessible to all interested students upon graduation from high school. This is especially true for our ELLs receiving ESL instruction and participating in our bilingual and dual language programs. In summary, Regent Ferrer underscored that New York State can serve as a model for capturing the strengths of ELLs' home languages to support world language learning for all students.

Family and Student Engagement: Finger Lakes Region Latino Family Literacy Project

This is the second in a series of articles about family engagement activities being conducted throughout New York State by our Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks (RBERN). Please check back again next month for more.



For the past 6 years the Mid-West RBERN has been supporting the Wayne Finger Lakes ENL Title III Consortium with family engagement programming including the Latino Family Literacy Project. This consortium is comprised of a dedicated team of ENL teachers from the Sodus, Marion, Williamson, North Rose-Wolcott, and Red Creek districts as well as many community volunteers.

Though delayed due to the pandemic, the consortium is fully implementing the Latino Family Literacy Project. It has served as a powerful way to re-connect with families as they learn together in a safe and productive environment. This phase of the project, which began in November 2021, is currently focused on elementary age students. Latino families gather on Sunday afternoons to participate in reading bilingual picture books and discuss ways that they can incorporate reading time with their children at home. Each week focuses on a new bilingual book that parents take home to read with their child throughout the week. Each meeting also includes a shared meal. In addition, parents create a family album that focuses on the strengths and assets of their children.

The next phase of the project is scheduled to begin this spring and will focus on middle and high school aged children and their families. Caregivers and their children will read a chapter book and students will work together on writing a college application essay. For more information on this and other parent engagement initiatives visit the [Mid-West RBERN website](#).

NABE Conference

The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) held their 51st Annual Conference in New York City the week of February 7, 2022. This was the first time NABE held this event in New York in more than 40 years. It was attended in person by more than 2,100 people and virtually by 600 others. As stakeholders in education gathered, one could feel the sense of *familia*. The passion, motivation, and excitement for bilingual education, for our English Language Learners, and for students of world languages resonated from the moment the ribbon was cut at the opening ceremony.

New York State Education Department Chancellor, Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr., officially opened the NABE conference with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The NABE general session, presided over by Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Ron Woo (1), Executive Director of the NYS Language RBERN, showcased an outstanding array of speakers, including: Dr. Miguel Cardona (2), US Secretary of Education, Dr. Betty A. Rosa (3—left front), Commissioner of Education & President of the University of the State of New York, and David C. Banks (4), the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education. Elisa Alvarez (3—third from left), Associate Commissioner for OBEWL received NABE’s 2022 Award in Leadership. Following the opening session, a plethora of keynote speakers and concurrent sessions offered attendees novel ideas and best practices to address the needs of students within bilingual programs. The closing session for the conference was delivered by Regent Luis O. Reyes, Ph.D. (5) on the “NYS Board of Regents and NYSED Promoting Opportunities for a Diverse Multilingual Society”.

During her featured session, Associate Commissioner Alvarez made a call to action, reminding us that our students should never be an after-thought! As she provided us an intimate look at her journey and how she arrived to where she is today, attendees were reminded that culture and language are an integral part of an inclusive curriculum. Our instruction must have multilingualism and multiculturalism embedded throughout; our bilingual classrooms and schools need to be a safe place to celebrate culture. There are moments when advocacy is difficult and exhausting, but it’s at those times that we must lock arms as a state and as a nation to fight for our students, and our Associate Commissioner is committed to this work. Ms. Alvarez closed her presentation with the following quote:

“It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.” ~ Robert F. Kennedy



(Pictured here is Regent Luis O. Regent (center podium) with members of the NABE Board, current and former NYSED representatives, and RBERN Executive Directors.)

NECTFL Conference

The 68th Annual Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) was held at the New York Hilton Midtown from February 10-12th, welcoming educators from across the nation for three days of professional learning and collegial networking. NECTFL serves educators of all languages (including classical, less commonly taught, and English as a New Language), at all levels from Kindergarten through university, in both public and private settings. In existence since the late 1940s, NECTFL is the largest of five regional associations of its kind in the United States, representing educators from Maine to Virginia, but exercising leadership nation-wide.



***Classroom Roots,
Global Reach***

**February 10–12, 2022
New York Hilton Midtown**

Christopher Gwin, Conference Chair



*Attendees of the New York City Department of Education
Meetup Group hosted by Jill Schimmel at NECTFL.*

Today NECTFL is governed by a board of directors comprised of 15 language educators from our region, with additional support from a central office staff and consultants. The board chooses a conference chair annually, and its committees carry out the organization's mission of providing the best professional development in the field. Candidates for the board are nominated by and voted upon by the NECTFL Advisory Council.

NECTFL's annual conference is designed for all who are concerned with world language education, providing both outstanding professional development and the chance to interact with

colleagues. The conference attracts about 1,500 individuals who take advantage of almost 200 sessions, workshops and events as well as an exhibit hall market place with 80+ vendors. Conference events include the recognition of award winners both within and outside the field. Next year's conference will take place at the New York Hilton Midtown from March 2nd-4th. For more information on this event or to submit a workshop proposal, please visit [NECTFL's website](#).

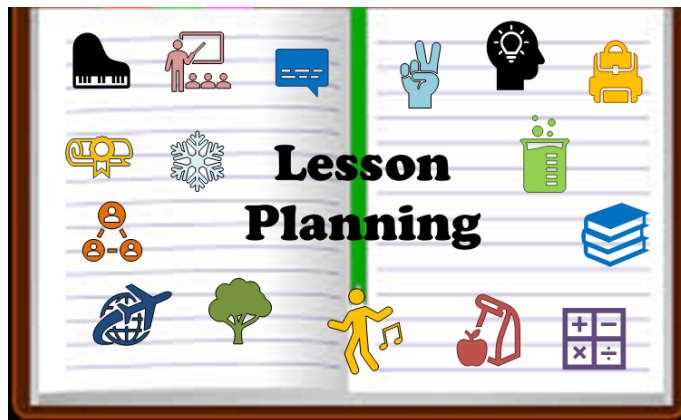
The New York State Education Department joins members of both NECTFL and the New York State Association for Language Teachers (NYSAFLT) in mourning the loss of NECTFL/NYSAFLT Executive Director John Carlino (right) in January. With strong management skills, a charming wit, and a steadfast commitment to the support of world language students, teachers, and programs, John was our North Star for decades. Across our state and the nation, he touched the lives of thousands through his leadership of these two organizations. We will miss him immensely. NYSAFLT will honor John Carlino and his advocacy efforts with the **NYSAFLT 100K for 100 Years John D. Carlino Legacy Fund**, a fund which was established five years ago under his guidance and support. By renaming this fund, NYSAFLT will remember John and his vision to financially support projects and help solve problems that language teachers and leaders face. For more information on how to donate to this fund, please visit [NYSAFLT's website](#).



*John Carlino
NECTFL/NYSAFLT Executive
Director*

2022 World Language Professional Learning Series Continues

The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages is continuing its series of professional learning workshops for world language educators. These online workshops are offered free of charge for world language educators and administrators working or studying in New York State schools, colleges, universities, BOCES/RBERNs, or other educational institutions. All workshops will take place from 4:00-5:00 p.m. so that educators can attend. Participants who attend these workshops via Zoom may earn a certificate of attendance or a certificate documenting CTLE credit. Recordings are made of all large-group workshops. Those who are unable to attend the virtual workshops may earn a certificate, including for CTLE credit, by watching the recording and earning a score of at least 7/10 on a post assessment.



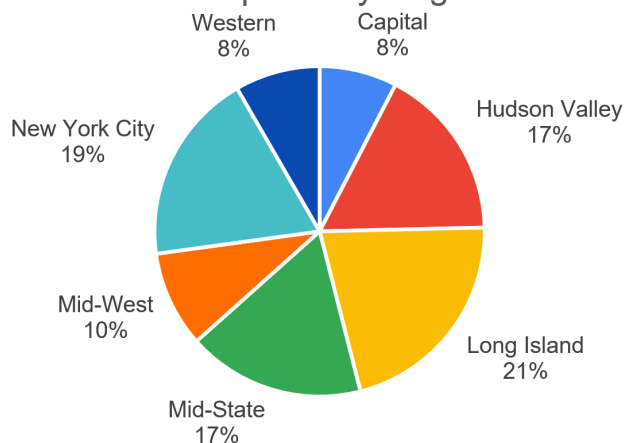
Registration for these workshops is now open. Please note that registration for all workshops closes 24 hours prior to the event. There is no same-day registration. Only pre-registered attendees will be admitted into the workshops. Once the registrant's email address has been verified as being from a New York State educational institution, an email confirming registration will be sent. No registration is necessary to view the recordings of these workshops.

- [Understanding Standards-Based Lesson Planning](#) (March 31, 2022)
- [Preparing for Standards-Based Curriculum Planning](#) (May 19, 2022)

Checkpoint A Unit Plan Exemplar Development Program

Since early February, a group of more than 270 world language teachers has been working with the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) to develop unit plan exemplars for Checkpoint A aligned to the revised NYS Learning Standards for World Languages. Teachers representing 13 different languages (American Sign Language, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Mandarin, Russian, Seneca, Spanish, and Tuscarora) and every major region of the state (see graph on right) are participating. The unit plans that result from this process will be vetted and made available on our website for teachers as they begin to revise their curricula for Checkpoint A in advance of the September 2023 implementation for 7th grade.

Checkpoint A Unit Plan Exemplar Participants by Region



OBEWL will host a similar unit plan exemplar development process for Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) programs in the Fall of 2022, one for Checkpoints B and C starting in January of 2023, and one for Heritage Language courses in the following school year. More information on these upcoming opportunities for professional learning and collaboration will be posted on our [website](#).

We are grateful to the participants of the Checkpoint A Unit Plan Exemplar Development program from the following schools for their time and expertise, as well as to the administrators who are supporting them in this process:

Addison MSHS
 AEIC Charter School
 Akron HS
 Alden SHS
 Alfred J. Berner MS
 Algonquin MS
 Allegany-Limestone Middle HS
 Anne M. Dorner MS
 Auburn JHS
 Babylon JSHS
 Batavia HS
 Batavia MS
 Bay Shore MS
 Beacon HS
 Benjamin N. Cardozo HS
 Berne-Knox-Westerlo Secondary
 Berner MS
 Bethlehem Central HS
 Bethlehem Central MS
 Binghamton HS
 Boerum Hill School for Intl. Studies
 Briarcliff MS
 Bronx HS for Medical Science
 Bronxville MS
 Brooklyn Community Arts & Media HS
 Brooklyn HS of the Arts
 Brooklyn Technical HS
 Burger JHS
 Burnt Hills HS
 Byron Bergen JSHS
 Camden HS
 Canajoharie CS
 Canandaigua MS
 Carle Place MS
 Carmel HS
 Carthage HS
 Carthage MS
 Central Islip HS
 Central Park MS
 Charter Sch. of Educational Excellence
 Chenango Valley MS
 Chestnut Ridge MS
 Chittenango MSHS
 Cincinnati CS
 Circleville MS
 Clarke HS
 Cohoes HS
 Colonie Central HS
 Connetquot HS
 Dansville HS
 Dawnwood MS
 Democracy Prep Harlem HS
 Depew HS
 DeWitt MS
 Dr. Susan S. McKinney HS
 Dryden HS
 Dunkirk SHS
 East Irondequoit MS
 East MS
 Eastport-South Manor JSHS
 East-West School of Intl. Studies
 Edward Town MS
 Elizabeth Blackwell MS
 Energy Tech HS
 Enrico Fermi School #17
 Eugenio Maria de Hostos Micro Society
 Felix Festa MS
 Fieldstone MS
 Fiorello LaGuardia Performing Arts
 Floral Park Memorial HS

Forest Hills HS
 Fox Lane HS
 Fox Lane MS
 Francis Lewis HS
 Frederick Law Olmsted @ Kensington
 Genesee Valley BOCES
 Gilboa-Conesville Secondary School
 Gillette Road MS
 Glen Head ES
 Glenwood Landing ES
 Gorton HS
 Gowana MS
 Great Hollow MS
 Great Neck North MS
 Great Neck South HS
 Great Neck South MS
 Harry S. Truman HS
 Hellenic Classical Charter School
 Henry Burger JHS
 Herricks MS
 Highland HS
 Holland MS
 Honeoye Falls-Lima MS
 Horace Greeley HS
 Hornell HS
 Horseheads MS
 Howard L. Goff MS
 HS for Arts & Business
 HS of Dual Language and Asian Studies
 Hudson HS of Learning Technologies
 Hutchinson Technical HS
 Ichabod Crane MS
 In-Tech Academy
 IS 259: William McKinley
 Isaac Newton MS for Math & Science
 Ithaca HS
 J. Taylor Finley MS
 James I O'Neill HS
 Jericho HS
 Jericho MS
 John Dewey HS
 John F. Kennedy HS
 John F. Kennedy MSHS
 Johnson City HS
 Kenmore East HS
 Knowledge & Power Preparatory Acad.
 Lancaster HS
 Lawrence HS
 Locust Valley HS
 Locust Valley MS
 Long Island City HS
 Longwood HS
 Longwood JHS
 Lynch Literacy Academy
 Mahopac MS
 Manhattan Ctr. for Science & Math HS
 Marie Curie MS
 Martha Brown MS
 Mexico HS
 Middletown HS
 Middletown MS
 Mildred E. Strang MS
 Millennium Brooklyn HS
 Miller Place HS
 Milton L. Olive MS
 Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES
 Monroe-Woodbury HS
 Monroe-Woodbury MS
 Mont Pleasant MS
 MS 105

MS 158
 MS 915
 New Design HS
 New Hyde Park Memorial HS
 Newburgh Free Academy
 North Shore HS
 North Shore MS
 North Syracuse JHS
 Norwich MS
 Nyack HS
 Oceanside HS
 Olean HS
 Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES
 Onondaga Central JSHS
 Onondaga Hill MS
 Onondaga JSHS
 Orchard Park HS
 Orchard Park MS
 Oswego MS
 Our Lady of Mercy School
 Oyster Bay HS
 P.J. Gelinis HS
 P.S. 171: Patrick Henry Prep
 Panama CS
 Paul D. Schreiber HS
 Penn Yan Academy
 Penn Yan MS
 Pierre Van Cortlandt MS
 Pittsford Mendon HS
 Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK HS
 Plattsburgh HS
 Pomona MS
 Port Chester MS
 PSLA @ Fowler
 PSMS 71 Rose E. Scala
 Queens HS for Language Studies
 Queens School of Inquiry
 Queensbury HS
 Red Hook HS
 Remsen JSHS
 Robert Moses MS
 Roberts Pre-K - 8 School
 Ronkonkoma MS
 Roosevelt HS-Early College Studies
 Roslyn MS
 Roth JHS
 Royalton-Hartland HS
 Russell I. Doig MS
 Rye HS
 Sachem North HS
 Salamanca HS
 Shaker MS
 Sleepy Hollow HS
 Somers MS
 Soule Road MS
 South Jefferson HS
 South Orangetown MS
 South Side HS
 South Woods MS
 Southampton HS
 Sperry HS
 Spry MS
 Stafford MS
 Staten Island Technical HS
 Stuyvesant HS
 Sweet Home MS
 Syosset HS
 Thomas R. Proctor HS
 Thousand Islands MS
 Turtle Hook MS

Twin Towers MS
 Union-Endicott HS
 Urban Assembly (Emergency Mgmt.)
 Valhalla Middle HS
 Valley Central HS
 Victor JHS
 Victory Collegiate HS
 Walter Panas HS
 Ward Melville HS
 Warwick Valley MS
 Waterville CS
 Watkins Glen HS
 Webster Schroeder HS
 Westmoreland HS
 White Plains MS
 Whitesboro MS
 William H. Golding MS



Professional learning events hosted by the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages are offered free of charge to educators from district, charter, and non-public schools within New York State, as well as to educators from our partner organizations and New York State colleges and universities.

Summer 2022 Collaborative Unit Design Workshops for Checkpoint A

In an effort to ensure that as many educators as possible are prepared to revise their Checkpoint A curricula prior to implementation of the revised NYS Learning Standards for World Languages in September of 2023, OBEWL will host collaborative unit design workshops in the summer of 2022 in seven regions of New York (Capital, Hudson Valley, Long Island, Mid-State, Mid-West, New York City, and Western regions). Teachers can attend one **or** both days to work collaboratively with others who teach the same language to develop Checkpoint A unit plans aligned to the revised standards. The events will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on each day with a one-hour break for lunch (not provided). A total of four (4) hours of CTLE credit will be awarded for each day attended. To participate, educators must register in advance using the following [online form](#). Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis until the venue capacity has been reached.

Region	Dates	Location
Capital	Wednesday, June 29th Thursday, July 28th	Questar III BOCES 10 Empire State Blvd., Castleton-On-Hudson, NY 12033
Hudson Valley	Thursday, June 30th Wednesday, July 27th	SUNY New Paltz 1 Hawk Dr., New Paltz, NY 12561
Mid-State	Monday, June 27th Tuesday, July 12th	OCM BOCES 110 Elwood Davis Rd., Liverpool, NY 13088
Mid-West	Monday, July 11th Tuesday, July 19th	Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES 3599 Big Ridge Rd., Spencerport, NY 14559
Long Island	TBD	TBD
New York City	Friday, July 1st Wednesday, July 20th*	Long Island City HS 14-30 Broadway, Queens, NY 11106
West	Monday, July 18th Tuesday, July 26th	Erie 1 BOCES 355 Harlem Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224

*The meeting on Wednesday, July 20th will start at 8:00 am and end at 12:00 pm.

We often get the question: ***“When is it recommended to begin revising world language curricula to align with the revised standards?”*** OBEWL

recommends that districts assure their world language teachers are first well-versed in the revised NYS Learning Standards for World Languages prior to embarking upon curriculum revisions.

This can be accomplished by attending and/or viewing the monthly professional learning webinars on our [website](#). In addition, OBEWL is continuing to [issue guidance and post resources](#), including a Unit Planning Template, that will be helpful for teachers when they revise their curricula. It is important to note that the implementation of these revised standards will be rolled out gradually, starting with 7th grade in September 2023.



BRIDGES MATH WEBINAR

INTRODUCTION TO THE CURRICULUM AND Q & A

The Bridges Math Orientation Webinar introduces teachers & administrators to the new Bridges Math curriculum.

The curriculum is designed for Newcomers & SIFE learners, targeting skills to prepare students for algebra.

This orientation course will introduce:

- The Bridges Math curriculum content & structure
- Principles of Guided Math
- Tools for differentiation, math language support, & social-emotional learning included in the curriculum

**APRIL
7TH
2:30-
3:30PM**



For more information & to register email admin@bridges-sifeproject.com


Click [here](#) to register for the Bridges Math Orientation webinar.

2020-21 NYS Seal of Biliteracy Annual Report Released

Each year since 2018-19, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has released an Annual Report on the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB or “the Seal”). The report summarizes facts and figures, such as the number of students who have earned the Seal and the number of schools that have offered it. The data is disaggregated in several meaningful ways, including by year, by region, by gender, and by race and ethnicity, which can provide valuable information for districts and schools to recruit and support students in their pursuit of the Seal. The report also identifies future goals for growth areas, strategies to achieve these goals, and provides information regarding how the NYSSB compares to other such programs throughout the country.

The full NYSSB Annual Report for 2020-21, along with separate reports for each region of the state, are available on our [NYSSB Annual Reports webpage](#). To complement this report, OBEWL has also released a series of regional infographics (see example below) and regional reports on the NYSSB. These infographics and regional reports are available for download on our [NYSSB Annual Reports webpage](#).




The New York State Seal of Biliteracy



2020-21 Report

Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

New York State Education Department

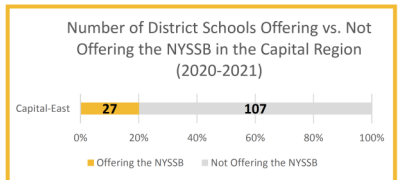
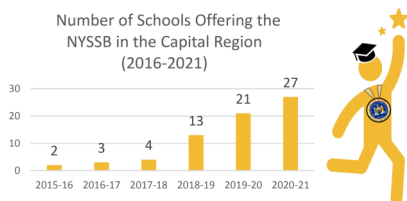
NYS Seal of Biliteracy Capital Region 2020-21

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.

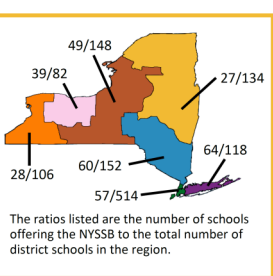
The intent of the NYSSB is to:

- 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.

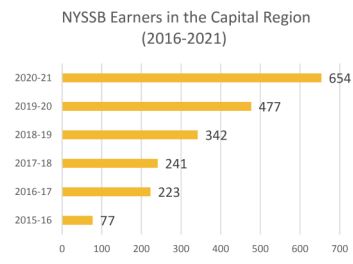
The NYSSB carries the highest weight on a school's "Readiness Measures", on par with the NYS Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams. This also includes current ELLs not in the graduation cohort earning the NYSSB and a Regents Diploma.



20.2% of district schools in the Capital region offered the NYSSB in 2020-21.



654 students from the Capital region earned the NYSSB in 2020-21.



Seal Earners by Gender

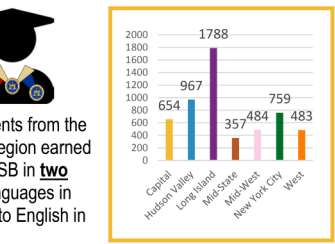
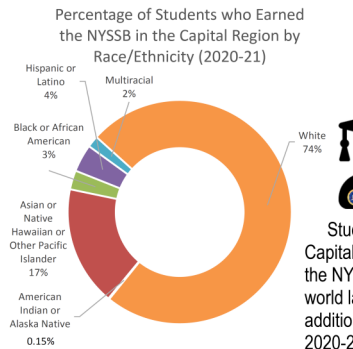
412 (Female) | 240 (Male) | 2 (Non-binary)

Seal Earners by ELL Status

Current ELLs	4
Former/Ever ELLs	18
Never ELLs - Home Language = English	578
Never ELLs - Home Language ≠ English	54

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.

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




Languages in which Capital region students earned the NYSSB in 2020-21
 Albanian, American Sign Language, Arabic, Bisaya/Cebuano, Chuukese, English, French, German, Gujarati, Japanese, Latin, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu

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

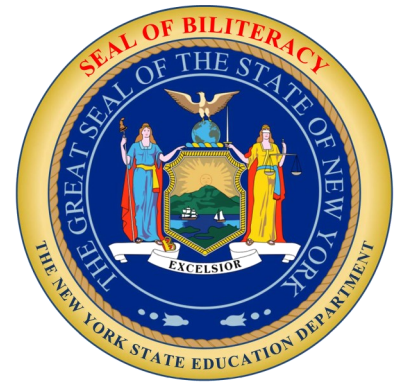
Capital District Region RBERN
 40 Empire State Blvd., Castleton, NY 12033, Tel: (518) 477-8771
 Website: <http://www.rbern.org>, Contact: <http://www.rbern.org/contact>

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



Will Your School Offer the Seal in 2022-23?

In 2020-21, a total of 324 schools offered the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB). To offer this program, schools registered by submitting a NYSSB School Notification Form to NYSED by December 1st. As of the publication of this newsletter, 401 schools have indicated their intention to offer the Seal to their students in 2021-22, an increase of 25% over the prior year. The process is simple: schools submit to OBEWL a series of three forms (NYSSB School Notification Form by December 1st, NYSSB Culminating Project Notification Form by March 15th, NYSSB End of Year Data Form by May 5th) and, in return, OBEWL sends to the school, free of charge, a Seal to be placed on each NYSSB candidate's diploma, and a medallion to be worn at graduation. All required forms be accessed on the [NYSSB website](#).



The spring is a perfect time of year for schools interested in establishing a Seal program to begin planning for 2022-23. All New York State schools that offer 12th grade, including district, charter, and non-public schools, are welcome to offer the NYSSB program to their students.

The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages offers a host of resources for schools looking to implement a Seal of Biliteracy program, including:

- [The NYSSB Handbook](#) — a must-read for the Seal Coordinator and Seal of Biliteracy Committee, this handbook contains everything a school needs to know about the Seal of Biliteracy, including an FAQ with over 100 questions answered.
- [The NYSSB Guidance Toolkit](#) — a series of 8 modules, complete with PowerPoints, timelines, and other documents to guide a Seal of Biliteracy Committee through their first year of implementing the NYSSB. If you are new to the Seal, consider accessing "[Module 1: Getting Started](#)".
- **The NYSSB Forum**— a monthly meeting for Seal Coordinators offering guidance and support on the NYSSB, as well as the opportunity for participants to ask questions, discuss, and network with other coordinators. Attendance at meetings is completely voluntary and CTLE credit will be awarded on a semester basis for any meetings attended. All meetings for 2021-22 will be on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Topics will be posted in advanced so that coordinators can choose to attend one, several, or all meetings, depending on their needs. Minutes will be made available on a shared drive for when participants are unable to attend a particular meeting. To register, please complete this [brief online form](#). The Zoom meeting link will be sent out on a rolling basis upon receipt of the registration form.
- **Webinars**—in the spring of 2022, OBEWL will offer a series of webinars for schools exploring the idea of implementing the Seal of Biliteracy in the following school year. More information on these webinars will be posted to the [NYSSB website](#) by March 15th.



2021 Seal of Biliteracy graduate from Riverside HS (Buffalo Public Schools)

News from Other NYSED Offices

In an effort to streamline New York's pathways to teaching, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) proposed last month to [modify teacher certification requirements](#) to reduce barriers to certification while maintaining rigorous standards. The proposed changes would eliminate the requirement for teacher candidates to pass the edTPA and replace it with a teacher performance assessment taken during a candidate's student teaching or similar clinical experience in a New York State-registered teacher preparation program. Public comment on the proposal will be accepted through February 28, 2022 via oheregcomments@nysed.gov.

At its January meeting, the Board of Regents adopted two additional proposed regulatory amendments to streamline teacher certification requirements. The first proposed amendment relates to [assessment requirements in school district leader, school district building leader, and Transitional D programs](#). A 60-day public comment period on this proposed amendment began on January 26, 2022.

The second proposed amendment relates to the [exam requirement for the reissuance of an initial certificate](#). A 45-day public comment period on this proposed amendment began on January 26, 2022.

February is Black History Month, and NYSED will launch our "My History, My Future" campaign once again. This annual social media campaign features inspiring quotes from outstanding students in New York's My Brother's Keeper programs expressing their hopes for the future. We will also continue to feature artwork from the [New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Art & Essay Exhibit](#) each day through the end of February. For more on this campaign, please follow the hashtags #MyHistoryMyFuture, #NYSMLK, and #StudentsExhibitingMLK on our social media channels ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#)).

NYSED announced that [expanded high school equivalency computer-based testing options](#) will be available to test takers in 2022 and beyond under a contract with the GED Testing Service (GEDTS). The GED exam is a well-recognized test of the academic knowledge and skills needed for college and career readiness as defined by NYSED's standards for adult education. With its computer-based testing options, GEDTS will provide greater flexibility and increased access to the exam for more of New York's students..

NYSED announced that the [New York State Summer School of the Arts \(NYSSSA\) will offer a total of \\$150,000 in scholarship opportunities](#) for high school students to attend regional summer arts programs during the summer of 2022. Students can apply for a scholarship through May 1, 2022, via an online application. The goal of the scholarship program is to promote access and equity to arts education by providing need-based grants to low-income students pursuing summer learning opportunities. The scholarship application will evaluate financial need and will not include an audition or portfolio component. More information on how to apply is available on the [NYSSSA website](#).

