

# Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

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## November 2021 Newsletter

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### Greetings from Associate Commissioner Elisa Alvarez



Dear Colleagues,

Our constitution is a promise of freedom for which every immigrant family has arrived. Many of the families we serve make the difficult decision to leave their native land. The devastation they face of civil unrest, violence and poverty leaves them no other choice. Although our country has faced many challenges, we stand on the shoulders of those who’s unquenchable thirst for equality for all has forced others to self-reflect and act for the good of the people. It is written that “We the People” have the right to live where our welfare, liberties ,and peace are protected by the articles and amendments of the Constitution of the United States. It is reassuring that the people of our country continue to seek equal opportunities and treatment under the law. You are contributors to our history. It is a history of advocates who provide equal opportunities of a quality education for all children and young adults who enter your doors. At this present time, many of your school districts and communities are actively welcoming families from all parts of the world. Thank you!

Education is a right and an equalizer for each student and family. Under the civil rights law, our students are protected and guaranteed a quality education. This means ALL, including our English Language Learners, students with disabilities and world language students who have immigrated to the state of New York. The decision of Lau v. Nichols in 1974, reaffirmed that regardless of the student’s native language, each has a right to the same educational opportunities as offered to every child. As a result of this ruling, Congress passed the Equal Opportunity Act (EOA), which mandated every state to afford “appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede equal participation by students in an instructional program.”

As your New York State educational agency and your representatives of bilingual education and world languages, we continue to seek the rights guaranteed in our constitution. The current initiatives for a Culturally Responsive, Linguistically Sustaining Education; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; amending our Early Childhood Regulations inclusive of the Emerging Multilingual Learners and finally the partnership with CUNY on immigration and education are some examples of our commitment.

I urge you to continue to demonstrate to your students and families your commitment to their civil rights. I invite you as well, to never be satisfied with the status quo. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.” I ask for your help and commitment of continued reflection, advocacy and justice for all!

In unity,

*Elisa Alvarez*

## ELL Task Forces

In 2020, the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages established ELL Task Forces, comprised of Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) Specialists and members of our ELL Advisory Council, to address issues impacting ELL success. The goal of these Task Forces is to propose solutions and create initiatives and materials that address these concerns.

### Performance Based Assessment/Learning

The PBA/PBL Task Force promotes project-based learning by supporting and empowering educators in creating authentic learning experiences and asset-oriented assessments that advance civic engagement and graduation outcomes. PBA/PBL Task Force team members are researching project-based learning and embedded performance-based assessments and the impact these instructional practices have on linguistically-diverse students. The Task Force will prepare white papers, share exemplars, and provide resources for educators.

### Dual Language Exploratory Committee

The vision of this team is to ensure that school districts are equipped to provide students the opportunity to achieve high levels of biliteracy and academic success through rigorous and culturally diverse dual language programs. They are currently focusing on how to raise awareness among stakeholders regarding the benefits of dual language programs and how to support and expand current and emerging programs.

### English Language Learners with Disabilities (ELLs/SWDs)

This Task Force established a link between OBEWL and the Office of Special Education, to support services for ELLs with disabilities. They are currently reviewing existing programs, providing clarification of regulations pertaining to ELLs with disabilities, and addressing areas of need affecting ELLs with IEPs and others at risk.

### ELL Graduation

NYSED's ELL Graduation Task Force was organized to address the lower graduation rates and higher dropout rates of ELLs relative to their non-ELL peers. The composition of this Task Force includes of RBERN and NYSED staff members, many of whom have previously worked as school and district leaders, counselors, content teachers, ESOL teachers, language assessors, and parent liaisons and data experts from rural, urban and suburban districts across the state. The mission of the ELL Graduation Task Force is to perform long-term and short-term targeted work that uses multiple data points and makes an impact by applying policies and resources directly to schools. They aim to build awareness and elevate the conversation around ELL graduation rates and to articulate a call to action for all stakeholders. This group has compiled relevant data and research and will move into sharing findings and conducting case studies within the year.

### Digital Age Teaching for ELLs

The focus of this Task Force is to support districts in providing ELLs with equitable access to digital age learning technology through quality instruction, and culturally responsive educational practices. Their goals are to identify and address the needs of educators and administrators working with ELLs in a digital environment, as well as to empower teachers of ELLs with opportunities, including research-based strategies, tools, and instructional methods that support hybrid and remote-only learning models.

## New York State Language Regional Bilingual Education Network (RBERN)

The NYS Language RBERN, located at New York University, provides statewide support for the education of ELLs and world language students by offering districts and schools implementing ELL and world language programs with technical assistance, professional development, and resource materials. Further, the NYS Language RBERN maintains a repository of translated resources used by educators, students, parents, and interested parties. These translated resources include bilingual glossaries used by ELLs for instruction and assessment, and informational materials for parents. Most importantly, the NYS Language RBERN hosts the Parent Hotline and website for ELL parents across New York State. The Hotline and website, staffed by multilingual speakers, provide parents of ELLs the opportunity to obtain information in their preferred languages and to make inquiries regarding their rights and those of their children. Parents whose children are bullied and/or discriminated against may file complaints through the Hotline and/or our [website](#).



**Ron Woo**  
Executive  
Director



**Pamela D'Andrea Martinez**  
Resource Specialist  
(Spanish, Italian)



**Yolanda Delgado-Villao**  
Resource Specialist  
(Spanish)



**Maria Diaz**  
Resource Specialist  
(Spanish)



**Clotilde Eccardi-Santana**  
Resource Specialist  
(Spanish)



**Nancy King Wang**  
Resource Specialist  
(Chinese)



**Jessie Morisset Cadeau**  
Program Associate  
(French, Haitian)



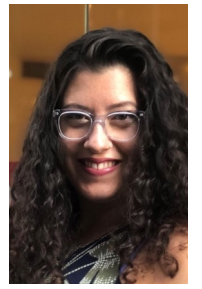
**Anh-Tuan Nguyen**  
Technical Associate  
(Vietnamese)



**Gloria M. Ortiz**  
Senior Resource Specialist  
(Spanish)



**Vironika Osminina**  
Program Associate  
(Russian)



**Lilly B. Padia**  
Graduate Research Asst.  
(Spanish)



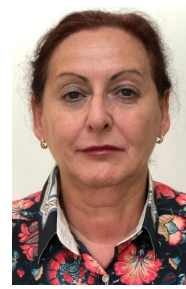
**Xiomara Rodriguez**  
Program Associate  
(Spanish)



**Nicole Rosefort**  
Resource Specialist  
(Haitian Creole, French)



**Henry Ruan**  
Resource Specialist  
(Chinese, French)



**Marina Vinitskaya**  
Resource Specialist  
(Russian, German,  
Belarusian)



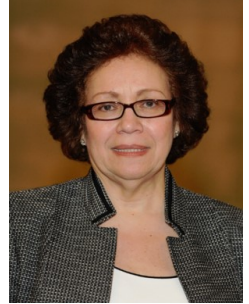
**Alicja Winnicki**  
Resource Specialist  
(Polish)

## New York City RBERN Welcomes New Executive Director



The New York City Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) at Fordham University serves the five boroughs of New York City, as it focuses on improving the educational outcomes and addressing the needs of their English Language Learner (ELL) population by supporting students, administrators, teachers, parents, and support personnel. Their goal is to deliver the most cutting-edge practices, information, and training to achieve equity, inclusion, and success for their diverse population.

The former Executive Director of the NYC RBERN, Eva Garcia, retired this summer after spending the past ten-plus years leading the NYC RBERN office and advocating for the needs of their constituency. We would like to thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of New York City's multilingual students and the teachers, administrators, parents, and staff that support them. Eva continues to be a most passionate advocate for the work of the RBERNs. She is now the president of the [New York State Association for Bilingual Education](#) (NYSABE). Eva has set the bar high for this office as they go on with the work. We thank her and are grateful for her commitment to equity in education. Eva's influence will be reflected in the continuation of the work at the NYC RBERN under the guidance of its new Executive Director, Diane Howitt.



Diane has served in positions of leadership and instruction in the fields of ESOL, bilingual education, and world languages for more than 45 years in New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley. As a veteran teacher and administrator in the New York City Department of Education, she delivered her message of advocacy, integrity, the cultivation of outstanding academic achievement for all English Language Learners, and the promotion of world language studies. She was on the forefront of Bilingual and English as a New Language Education during its formation and simultaneously cultivated her mission as a specialist to ensure equity in all areas for ELLs. During her 15-year tenure at Fordham University's Center for Educational Partnerships, Diane served as Director of Fordham's Lower Hudson Valley BETAC and Resource Specialist for the Bilingual/ESL Teacher Leadership Academy (BETLA) and the NYC RBERN.

Her profound knowledge of second language acquisition and related programs (K-12), bilingual education, literacy instruction, NYSED initiatives, world language instruction, social-emotional learning, equity, culturally responsive educational practices, program design and implementation, grant writing, and cutting-edge research equip her to understand and respond to the needs of the Multilingual Learners in New York City. Her entire career has been devoted to improving educational practices and maximizing outcomes for all English learners while advocating for ELL students and their families.

This year, the NYC RBERN will roll out initiatives in support of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and meeting the highest educational standards of instruction and opportunities for their students. To that end, they are continuing to work closely with targeted schools and are planning meaningful and robust professional development activities as incremental series for teachers, administrators, parents/caretakers, and support staff in partnership with experts in the field, educational organizations, agencies, and CBOs. They will feature such topics as DEI, Early Childhood, social justice, World Languages, the Seal of Biliteracy, College/FAFSA Completion Events, Dual Language, Literacy, Oracy, PRHYLI, etc. Moreover, they will also produce monthly newsletters and briefs devoted to current topics of importance to ENL, bilingual, and world language education.

The NYC RBERN looks forward to working together with OBEWL and their sister RBERNs as they move on with this important mission. For more information on the NYC RBERN and the services they offer, please visit their [website](#).



**FORDHAM UNIVERSITY**  
THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## **OBEWL Welcomes Intern Yunxiao Zhang**

Yunxiao Zhang has joined OBEWL this fall as an intern. She is currently a doctoral student in the Educational Policy and Leadership program at the University at Albany. Her research interest is education for human sustainable development intertwined with economic and environmental advancement for equitable, sustainable societies. She advocates for collective action to ensure cradle-to-career education through building partnerships among all organizations and stakeholders. Yunxiao taught at a vocational college in China for 13 years and was responsible for curriculum design and development as an Assistant Dean of the Information Technology and Management Department. After coming to the US, she completed the MAT program and taught Mandarin language courses at several high schools in the Albany and Buffalo areas. As a new immigrant, she experienced language and cultural barriers, allowing her to deeply understand the significance of the support needed for English Language Learners and the values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).



“I’m so excited to work at OBEWL as an intern, as this will allow me the opportunity to support immigrant students, just like my daughter. I have dedicated myself to creating a DEI climate, which supports English Language and Multilingual Learners to pursue higher language proficiency and academic success, which is exactly the mission of OBEWL. That’s why I’m eager to be part of this team.”

## **NYSED Announces New Translated Materials for Diploma Requirements**

Translated materials to support students’ and families’ understanding of the NYS Diploma Requirements are now available. Resources translated in the following languages can be found on the Department’s [Understanding NYS Diploma Requirements ~ Family Resources](#) webpage: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Simplified), French, Haitian Creole, Karen, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, and Uzbek (Latin). Included are three flyers (Understanding Current Diploma Requirements, Additional Options, Understanding Exemptions due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency) and the diploma requirements tracking tool. Questions pertaining to diploma requirements can be directed to our Office of Curriculum and Instruction at [emscgradreq@nysed.gov](mailto:emscgradreq@nysed.gov) or (518) 474-5922.

## **Online Courses to Support Teaching of Multilingual Learners**

The NYSED Office of Educational Technology has partnered with the New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education (NYSCATE) to develop a series of asynchronous online courses supporting the professional development of NYS educators. This training platform, available on the [NYSCATE website](#), includes a pathway of courses in instruction for Multilingual Learners with a focus on ELLs. The first course in this pathway, “[How Language Impacts Learning for ELLs/MLs](#)” was launched in October 2021. This course is delivered in five modules:

- Module #1—Research and Concepts That Support Instruction of ELLs/MLs
- Module #2—Key Strategies to Support ELLs/MLs in Content Area Classes
- Module #3—Increase Student Engagement & Connections with ELLs & MLs Online
- Module #4—Resources for Continued Learning
- Final Module—Get Your Digital Badge and Certificate

Participants will receive access to the course on the Canvas learning platform to begin working on the course modules at their own pace. Participants will be awarded three CTLE credits upon successful completion of the course.

Additional courses are being developed on the topics of “Creating Effective Supports and Scaffolds for ELLs/MLs” and “Supporting ELLs’/MLs’ Academic Language Development in Distance and Hybrid Settings.” Be sure to check the [NYSCATE website](#) for these and other courses as they become available.

## 2021 World Language Professional Learning Series



[Understanding Unit Planning with the Revised NYS World Language Standards Part 2—Checkpoint A](#) with Rebecca Blouwoff (2020 ACTFL Teacher of the Year), Tuesday, November 9th, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Workshop description: Checkpoint A students deserve rich, engaging units that maximize target language use and build global awareness. Learn to apply key principles of unit design to your setting. Explore a case study of how a textbook chapter on the house can be transformed into a thematic unit about the tiny house movement and variations in global dwellings. You will leave with a toolbox that supports you in transforming an existing unit or creating a new one.

Presenter: Rebecca Blouwoff has taught French at Wellesley Middle School in Massachusetts since 1998, but fell in love with middle schoolers while teaching English in France. Novice students inspire her to create engaging, age-appropriate lessons focused on global awareness. She served as the 2020 National Language Teacher of the Year, the 2019 MaFLA and NECTFL Teacher of the Year, and is a National Board Certified Teacher.



[Understanding Unit Planning with the Revised NYS World Language Standards Part 3—Checkpoint B](#) with Lisa Shepard (Madame Shepard), Tuesday, November 30th, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.



Workshop description: In this session you will learn how to use Backward Design to prepare a unit for learners at the Checkpoint B level. You will see examples of how the NYS World Language Standards can be used to define student outcomes and how these standards can be assessed using an Integrated Performance Assessment. Lastly, you will come away with a variety of tasks that can be used to plan learning experiences for your students in the Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational modes, as well as to increase their intercultural competence.

Presenter: Lisa Shepard is an independent consultant who spent the first 29 years of her career teaching French at the secondary level. During that time, she earned her National Board Certification, was chosen as the Ohio World Language Teacher of the Year in 2016, and began publishing her blog, “Madame’s Musings.” She is now using her experience with standards-based unit design and proficiency-based instruction to provide professional learning to world language teachers around the country. Lisa is also a #langchat moderator and a frequent presenter at local, state, regional and national conferences.





## [Understanding Unit Planning with the Revised NYS World Language Standards Part 4—Checkpoint C](#) with Regina O’Neal, Tuesday, December 7th, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Workshop description: The NYS Learning Standards for World Languages (2021) compel educators to use “a range of diverse texts, including authentic resources.” With this in mind, and considering the state’s focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, this workshop will focus on moving learners from the Intermediate Mid to the Intermediate High level of proficiency, by way of maximizing student production in the classroom, using materials that highlight and celebrate the people and cultures of the African

Diaspora. Special attention is given, but not limited to, how to engage students in the analysis of works of art and poetry created by artists of African descent, while using the target language. The workshop will be presented in English with examples provided in Spanish.

Presenter: Regina O’Neal has dedicated over twenty years to teaching. She currently teaches all levels of Spanish at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute where she serves as the World Language Department Chair. She is the advisor to two extracurricular clubs on her campus: Los Ingenieros—El club de la cultura hispana and the Cuauhtémoc chapter of the Spanish National Honor Society. Through the work of her school clubs, Regina has served the Latino community of Baltimore by way of volunteering for various non-profit organizations like CASA de Maryland and the Esperanza Center. Regina is an active member of several professional organizations including MFLA, NECTFL, AATSP, and ACTFL and is a regular presenter at conferences. She works closely with her school district and serves as a curriculum writer and professional learning facilitator. Regina lives in Baltimore with her husband of twenty-one years, Marquise, and is the proud mother of seven beautiful children.



## [Facilitation Guides for Workshops in 2021 World Language Professional Learning Series](#)

To assist world language educators, who may wish to view the recorded workshops from the professional learning series, OBEWL has created facilitation guides. These facilitation guides are designed for use by a facilitator and/or participants engaged in professional learning designed around a webinar and its focus topic(s). Facilitators and/or participants may use the facilitation guides in whole, or in part, all at once, or spaced out over time. They may additionally customize the facilitation guide to best suit their needs by modifying, adding to, or eliminating suggested discussion questions and/or tasks. The facilitation guides begin with an overview of the webinar goals and its organization. They follow with suggestions of structured discussion questions and tasks that are organized for use before, during, and after webinar viewing and are aligned to the stated webinar goals. Guides are currently available for workshops on standards one through five and can be found on the individual workshop’s webpage. Additional guides will be added as more workshops are offered.



Professional Learning Series

### Webinar Facilitation Guide

#### From Skills to Modes: Standard 1 - Interpretive Communication

Access video-recorded webinar and accompanying resources at:  
<http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/skills-modes-part-1-interpretive-communication>

#### Introduction to the Facilitation Guide

Facilitation Guide Use. This facilitation guide is designed for use by a facilitator and/or participants engaged in professional learning designed around this webinar and its focus topic(s). Facilitators and/or participants may use the facilitation guide in whole or in part, all at once or spaced out over time. They may additionally customize the facilitation guide to best suit their needs by modifying, adding to, or eliminating suggested discussion questions and/or tasks.

Facilitation Guide Design. The facilitation guide begins with an overview of the webinar goals and its organization. It follows with suggestions of structured discussion questions and tasks that are organized for use before, during, and after webinar viewing and aligned to the stated webinar goals.

#### Webinar Goals

1. I can define and differentiate language skills and communicative modes.
2. I can identify reasons for the standards’ shift from language skills to communicative modes.
3. I can interpret what is meant by the wording of Standard 1, Interpretive Communication.
4. I can identify ways to meaningfully apply Standard 1.

#### Webinar Organization

1. Welcome, introduction, and overview
2. Explanations of language skills, modes of communication, and the rationale for the revised standards
3. Deep dive into Standard 1, including authentic resources
4. Examples of Standard 1, applied at three proficiency checkpoints

## NYS AFLT Annual Conference 2021

**ROOTED, STRONG AND GROWING**  
*with new standards in NYS*



The New York State Association For Language Teachers (NYS AFLT) held its 104th annual conference in Liverpool, NY, from October 22-23, 2021. Organized by conference chair and NYSAFLT President-Elect Jenny Delfini, a teacher from the Lenape Elementary School (New Paltz CSD), the theme for this year's conference was "Rooted, Strong, and Growing with New Standards in New York State." The conference was organized as a hybrid one, with both virtual and in-person attendance options, including live and pre-recorded sessions. Co-sponsored by the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages, NYSAFLT welcomed approximately 190 world language educators and administrators and 14 exhibitors to this event, with 50 additional members taking advantage of the virtual option.

Friday began with intensive pre-conference workshops on topics such as the culturally responsive classroom, using authentic resources to teach grammar as a concept in context, and developing proficiency through language functions and forms. Regular sessions followed on Friday through Saturday afternoon, with offerings on a whole range of topics, including: differentiation, moving the world language department toward proficiency, classroom management, strategies to teach writing, tech tools, aligning with the revised standards, designing formative performance tasks, teaching culture, and advocacy. With almost 80 presenters, there was truly something for everyone at this conference.

During the Annual Business Meeting and Service Award Luncheon, run by NYSAFLT President Sally Barnes (Croton-Harmon UFSD), the executive committee recognized scholarship winners and regional directors finishing their term of service and welcomed incoming directors for the new year. The membership also formally voted to approve the constitutional amendment to change the organization's name to the New York State Association For Language Teachers, replacing the term "Foreign" with "For" in the association's name. Public Advocacy Chairs, Barbara Patterson (retired, Liverpool CSD) and Marie Campanaro (retired, Spencerport CSD) presented new advocacy resources and performed a humorous skit to demonstrate how



*Exhibitors from the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages take a photo in the Exhibit Hall— from left to right: Yunxiao Zhang—Intern, Maria Fenton-Resource Specialist from the Mid-State RBERN at OCM BOCES, Elisa Alvarez-Associate Commissioner OBEWL-NYSED, and Candace Black-World Language Associate OBEWL-NYSED.*



*Standing: NYSAFLT Public Advocacy Chairs—Barbara Patterson and Marie Campanaro. From left to right: Françoise Piron (NYSAFLT 2nd Vice President, South Jefferson CSD, retired), Valérie Greer (NYSAFLT Secretary-Treasurer, Bay Shore Schools), Jenny Delfini (NYSAFLT President-Elect, New Paltz CSD), Sally Barnes (NYSAFLT President, Croton-Harmon UFSD), John Carlino (NYSAFLT Executive Director, Kenmore Tonawanda UFSD, retired), and Marissa Coulehan (NYSAFLT 1st Vice-President, Dobbs Ferry CSD).*



educators can encourage students to fulfill their potential by striving for more than just the minimum graduation requirements.

On Saturday morning, noted leader, presenter, author, and blogger in the field of world language education, Leslie Grahn, delivered the keynote speech, engaging attendees in a thoughtful discussion of employability and world language skills and the power of collegial support during the transition to our revised standards. Attendees showed their overwhelming support and appreciation with a standing ovation following the presentation.



*On stage: Jenny Delfini (NYSAFLT President-Elect) and Leslie Grahn (Keynote speaker).*

NYSAFLT's 105th Annual Conference theme is *"Reflecting, Regrouping, Realigning with the World Language Standards"* and will take place in Rochester, NY from October 21-22, 2022. For more information on NYSAFLT's events, please visit their website: [www.nysaflt.org](http://www.nysaflt.org).

The New York State Association For Language Teachers was founded in 1917. Its purpose was, and remains, to serve the needs of the profession, dedicated to the development of world language skills and cultural awareness among students. The creation of NYSAFLT marked an important step in enabling schools to give their students an informed and sensitive global perspective in an era of international turmoil.

Since that time, the same spirit has motivated world language teachers and served as the basic inspiration for this vibrant organization.

Each year the Association offers its members:

- A network of communication with colleagues throughout the state;
- Opportunities for professional growth through conferences and workshops regionally and statewide;
- A direct link with the State Education Department;
- An advocate's voice among the members of the Board of Regents and the State's legislators; and
- Various support services designed to enrich teachers' professional lives.

For more information on this organization and how to become a member, please visit their website: [www.nysaflt.org](http://www.nysaflt.org).

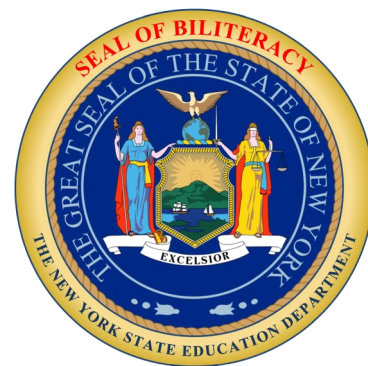


## World Language Leadership Council

OBEWL has formed the World Language Leadership Council to provide a regular forum for world language educators and administrators to discuss and share their questions, concerns, and suggestions with NYSED. This Council will also serve as an additional means of communicating information and initiatives regarding world language programs to the field, complementing our professional learning offerings, website, and newsletter. Teachers who serve as a world language department chairperson or administrators who serve as a director of world languages may join. We ask you to limit membership in the Council to one person per school plus a district-level employee, if desired. The Council will meet virtually (via Zoom), for one hour on one Monday of the month from September to June. Attendance at meetings is completely voluntary and CTLE credit will be awarded on a semester basis for those meetings attended. Interested educators should complete this [brief Google form](#) with their name and contact information. Links to join the meetings will be sent out on a rolling basis, as forms are received. All meetings for 2021-22 will be on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

## New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB)

A reminder to schools interested in offering the NYSSB in 2021-22: the NYSSB School Notification form, which was reduced from four to two pages this year, is due by **December 1, 2021**. Seal Coordinators can print out a [template of the form](#) to gather the required information prior to submitting it via the [online form](#). Please send any questions on this form or the NYSSB to [nyssb@nysed.gov](mailto:nyssb@nysed.gov).



The cover features a blue and gold border. At the top left is a small circular logo for the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages. The main title 'The New York State Seal of Biliteracy Handbook' is in large, bold, black font. Below the title is the Seal of the State of New York Education Department. Underneath the seal, the text '2021-2022' is displayed in a large, bold, black font. Below that, 'Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages' and 'New York State Education Department' are written in a smaller, bold, black font. At the bottom left is the NYS ED logo with the tagline 'New York State EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Knowledge &gt; Skill &gt; Opportunity'.

NYSED released the [2021-22 NYSSB Handbook](#) on October 18, 2021. The handbook serves as the official reference for all requirements, forms, and questions regarding the Seal. The handbook is available for download on the [NYSSB website](#).

OBEWL has created the NYSSB Forum, a monthly meeting 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 the 2021-22 academic year will be on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Minutes will be made available on a shared Google drive for when participants are unable to attend a particular meeting. To register, please complete the following [brief Google form](#). The Zoom meeting link will be sent out on a rolling basis upon receipt of the registration form. Forum meetings will take place on the following dates: November 3rd, December 1st, January 12th, February 9th, March 9th, April 6th, May 4th, and June 1st.

## **World Language Professional Learning Communities**

The NYS Language RBERN is proud to inaugurate two World Language Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in New York State – one in Chinese and one in Russian. These PLCs will support Chinese and Russian world language teachers who are often the only teachers of those languages within their schools. The PLCs will promote instructional excellence through the opportunity to learn and share teaching techniques, academic knowledge, and critical thinking. Further, the PLCs will connect teachers to curricular materials and provide a creative space to explore and practice culturally and linguistically responsive and sustaining instructional practices. For more information on these PLCs, please contact [obewl@nysed.gov](mailto:obewl@nysed.gov).

## **News from Other NYSED Offices**

### **NYS Physical Education Learning Standards**

NYSED is offering a presentation on the NYS Physical Education Learning Standards Introduction and Rollout for NYS Physical Education Teachers on November 10, 2021, from 10-11 a.m. This virtual meeting will provide updates on the rollout of the NYS Physical Education Learning Standards, the introduction, status, and tentative implementation timeline, as well as professional development resources. The presentation will be limited to the first 1,000 participants. If you are interested in attending, please register [here](#).

### **World AIDS Day and Ending the Epidemic Summit**


World AIDS Day and Ending the Epidemic Summit will be held virtually from November 30 to December 2, 2021. World AIDS Day is intended to provide a learning experience for middle and high school students. To register click [here](#).

### **CARES Act Reminder**

The project period for CARES Act Funding is from 3/13/2020 through 9/30/2022. LEAs have until 9/30/2022 to encumber costs related to allowable activities that will be supported with CARES Act Funding. NYSED strongly encourages LEAs to ensure that the entire CARES Act allocation is encumbered prior to the 9/30/2022 deadline. Questions can be submitted to the Office of ESSA-Funded Programs at (518) 473-0295 or via email at [CARESACT@NYSED.GOV](mailto:CARESACT@NYSED.GOV).

### **2022 Evolution and Ecology Teacher Workshop**

The New York State Museum presents the 2022 Evolution and Ecology teacher workshop, “Faunal and Human Responses to Climate Changes,” to be held at the museum on Saturday, January 29, 2022. The workshop is a professional learning opportunity for science teachers, especially those who teach biology and environmental science to middle and high school students. Attendees may earn eight hours of CTLE credit by attending this event.

To register, please download the [2022 EVOLUTION & ECOLOGY WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM \(PDF\)](#)  and return your completed registration by Friday, January 7, 2022. If you have questions, please email Jen Riley at [Jennifer.Riley@nysed.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Riley@nysed.gov).

### **Clean Green Schools Initiative**

Governor Kathy Hochul recently announced that \$59 million will be allocated to the Clean Green Schools initiative to address climate justice issues and create improved, healthier learning environments for students. The Clean Green Schools initiative will launch in 2022 to improve indoor air quality and reduce carbon emissions in more than 500 public and private pre-kindergarten through grade 12 schools in New York’s underserved communities. As part of the program, New York State educators will convene this fall to inform the initiative. Click on either of the following links to learn more about the [Clean Green Schools initiative](#) and the [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#).

## Need local support? Contact your local RBERN!

The RBERNs support OBEWL's mission to ensure that all students' individual educational paths and socio-economical needs are met in multiple languages leading them to college, career, and civic readiness. They are NYSED's key providers of guidance, technical assistance, and support to New York State Districts, Charter Schools, Non-public Schools, and other organizations in the development of programs for MLs.

- [New York State Language RBERN \(statewide\)](#)
- [Capital District Region RBERN at Questar III BOCES](#)
- [Hudson Valley RBERN at SW BOCES](#)
- [Long Island RBERN at Eastern Suffolk BOCES](#)
- [Mid-State RBERN at OCM BOCES](#)
- [Mid-West RBERN at Monroe 2 - Orleans BOCES](#)
- [New York City RBERN at Fordham University](#)
- [West Region RBERN at Erie 1 BOCES](#)

### [Resource Collection for ELLs](#)

### [Resource Collection for World Language Students](#)

## Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

New York State Education Department

Albany office: 89 Washington Avenue – EB505, Albany, NY 12234, (518) 474-8775

Brooklyn office: 55 Hanson Place, Rm 594, Brooklyn, NY 11217, (718) 722-2445

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[World Languages website](#)

[NYS Seal of Biliteracy website](#)



The mission of the New York State Education Department's Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages is to ensure that all New York State English Language Learners (ELLs) attain the highest level of academic success and that all Multilingual Learners (MLs) – which include ELLs, Former/Ever ELLs, World Languages students, and heritage speakers of World Languages – achieve the highest level of language proficiency in English and in one or more other languages.

