



The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages  
of the New York State Education Department  
presents:



# **Teaching the Standards for Mixed Second and Heritage Language Learner Second Language Classes: Strategies for Inclusive and Effective Standards-Aligned Instruction**

Presenter: Dr. Kristen D'Alessandro Merii

*Webinar date & time: Tuesday, June 9th, 2026, 4:00-5:00 pm via Zoom*

The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) of the New York State Education Department (NYSED) presents this next webinar in the 2025-26 school year: **Teaching the Standards for Mixed Second and Heritage Language Learner Second Language Classes: Strategies for Inclusive and Effective Standards-Aligned Instruction**. This webinar is offered free of charge for world language educators and administrators working and studying in New York State educational institutions. 1 hour of CTLE credit is offered.

Webinar description: In today's linguistically diverse classrooms, second language educators must increasingly meet the needs of both second language (L2) and heritage language (HL) learners, a situation that presents both challenges and opportunities as HLs may bring vastly different linguistic and cultural experiences to the second language classroom. This webinar explores how the NYS World Language Standards can be effectively implemented in mixed-level classrooms to support equitable, rigorous, culturally and linguistically responsive instruction. Participants will examine the unique profiles, strengths, and challenges of a mixed L2 and HL classroom and gain a clear understanding of how the NYS World Language Standards can be implemented in mixed second language classrooms while exploring differentiated instructional strategies that align with the standards and ongoing research and honor students' diverse language backgrounds. Whether you are new to teaching mixed classes or seeking to refine your approach, this session offers practical tools and insights to help you create inclusive, standards-aligned instruction that empowers every student to thrive.



Registration process: All participants are encouraged to pre-register for this event. Pre-registration will close on Friday, June 5, 2026; there will be no same-day registrations. Once the registrant's email address has been verified as being from a New York State school, college, or university, an email confirming their registration will be sent. Twenty-four hours prior to the event, all registered individuals will receive login instructions with

the link to join the webinar. **Only pre-registered attendees will be eligible for a certificate documenting attendance and/or CTLE hours.**

Link to registration form: <https://wlnys.wufoo.com/forms/zc5ypoh08k7nzi/>

Webinar presenter: **Kristen D'Alessandro Merii, PhD.** is a language educator with 13 years of experience working in K-12 and higher education institutions. She is a co-facilitator of a multi-year collaborative that works closely with local educators to successfully implement the NYS World Language Standards. As a former member of the Western New York Committee to review the NYS World Language Standards, she was an integral member of a team that helped revise and decide on the current standards. She recently received her PhD in Language Education and Multilingualism from the University at Buffalo. Her research consists of investigating multilingual second language classrooms, such as the HL-L2 classroom, to better support students and educators.



For more information on professional learning webinars for world language educators, please visit our website: <http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/professional-learning>.