

New York State  
Seal of Biliteracy  
(NYSSB)



# The NYSSB for Teachers

## What is the NYSSB?

The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) is an award given to high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in the three modes of communication (Interpretive, Interpersonal, Presentational) in English and one or more world languages. The NYSSB encourages the study of languages, affirms the value of diversity in a multilingual society, and provides universities and future employers with additional information about applicants. Students who may pursue the NYSSB include students who speak a language other than English at home and those who have developed or are developing proficiency in another language through study.

## How does the NYSSB benefit students and schools?

The NYSSB acknowledges the importance of being bilingual in today's global society. It highlights the hard work and achievement of students, encourages them to maintain their home language, and pursue additional language study while in school. The recognition of attaining biliteracy becomes part of the high school transcript and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admission. All NYSSB earners will receive an official seal affixed to their diploma, a medallion to wear at graduation, and may also receive a certificate from the New York State Education Department. The NYSSB promotes and strengthens robust English and World Language programs. In addition, the NYSSB positively contributes to the school's "College, Career, and Civic Readiness (CCCR)" score in the same way as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.

## What do students need to do to earn the NYSSB?

To earn the NYSSB, students must demonstrate Intermediate High proficiency in English and the required level of Checkpoint C proficiency in one or more world languages set forth by the NYS Learning Standards in World Languages, adopted by the NYS Board of Regents in March 2021. Proficiency for the NYSSB is demonstrated by the student earning three (3) points in English and three (3) points in one or more world languages from a points matrix. Students can earn points toward the NYSSB in a number of ways, including completing coursework in English and a world language (including a home language) with an average of 85% or better, earning a set score on an approved assessment in English and/or a world language, and completing and

<http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb>

presenting a Culminating Project in English and/or a world language that demonstrates the required level of proficiency in all three modes of communication (Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational).

## How can teachers support students to pursue the NYSSB?

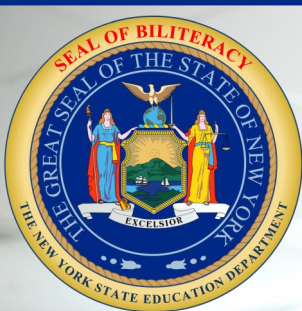
We know that teachers are critical to the success of our students and that all teachers, regardless of discipline, support language acquisition. Teachers of English, including teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), as well as teachers of world languages can support students' language development through classroom instruction, encouragement to pursue the NYSSB, and by embedding into their courses a project, which could be used as a Culminating Project. ESOL teachers can further support their English Language Learners (ELLs) by providing resources to help students continue to develop their home language. Teachers of all disciplines can also serve as advisors for these Culminating Projects and/or as members of the Panel of Reviewers to evaluate student presentations of the Culminating Project.

## What resources exist for teachers?

The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) and the New York State Education Department maintain a variety of resources for teachers of English and world languages, including: [NYS Graduation Requirements](#), [P-12 Next Generation Standards for English Language Arts](#), [NYS Learning Standards for World Languages](#), [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012](#), and [ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners](#).

The [NYSSB website](#) also has a number of resources, including rubrics for the Culminating Projects, which can be used for English and world languages, and the [NYSSB Guidance Toolkit](#), which contains a series of self-guiding modules. These modules, consisting of agendas, videos, presentation slides, and supporting documentation, can be used by district staff to implement, improve, or expand their NYSSB programs. Of particular interest to teachers are [Module 3: Designing the Culminating Project and Promoting the NYSSB Program](#) and [Module 5: Preparing for Panel Presentations](#).

For more information on the NYSSB, please contact the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages via email ([nyssb@nySED.gov](mailto:nyssb@nySED.gov)) or phone (518.473.7505).



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