

[SCHOOL]

[DATE]

Dear Parents or Guardians,

We are pleased to inform you of a new initiative to acknowledge students who have studied and attained a high proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB), signed into law by Governor Cuomo, was established to recognize high school graduates who meet criteria established by the Board of Regents.

The intent of the New York State Seal of Biliteracy is to:

- affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society;
- encourage the study of languages;
- identify high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers;
- provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission;
- prepare students with twenty-first century skills; and to
- recognize the value of world and home language instruction in schools.

In order to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy, your student must meet all requirements for graduating with a Regents diploma and demonstrate a high level of reading, writing, speaking and listening in English and one other language. This other language could be a language used at home or one studied at school. Students who pursue the NYS Seal of Biliteracy must earn three points for each language area, as listed in the document: "Earning the New York State Seal of Biliteracy."

You can learn more about the NYSSB by visiting this website: <http://www.nysed.gov/bilingual-ed/schools/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb>

Based on an initial review of criteria, \_\_\_\_\_ (student):

\_\_\_\_\_ has met the initial requirements to achieve the New York State Seal of Biliteracy this year

\_\_\_\_\_ is close to meeting the initial requirements to achieve New York State Seal of Biliteracy this year

If your student wants to pursue the NYS Seal of Biliteracy, please complete the application & agreement on page 2 and return it school.

Application deadline:

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[Application deadline]

Please contact the person below with questions or for more information:

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[Contact person name and contact information]

**Student Application & Agreement for the New York State Seal of Biliteracy**

Student name/Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduating year: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ ELA Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

World Language Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ ESOL Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Language other than English: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you study this language in school?

- YES  
 NO

Are you in a bilingual program?

- YES  
 NO

Do you use this language at home?

- YES  
 NO

Are you an English language learner (ELL) or former ELL?

- YES  
 NO

I intend to pursue the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) to certify that I have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the language listed above, in addition to English.

I understand that the NYSSB is awarded by the Commissioner under Chapter 271 of the Laws of 2012 (Section 815 of Education Law) to students who meet criteria established by the Board of Regents and who have achieved a Regents Diploma in New York State.

I have carefully reviewed the requirements for earning the NYSSB and understand the *Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in English/a World Language* and agree to my school's conditions and obligations for working towards the NYSSB.

I understand that the NYSSB will only be granted if I have successfully met the above criteria.

I promise to fulfill this agreement to the best of my ability, maintain academic integrity and consistent effort throughout this process.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_