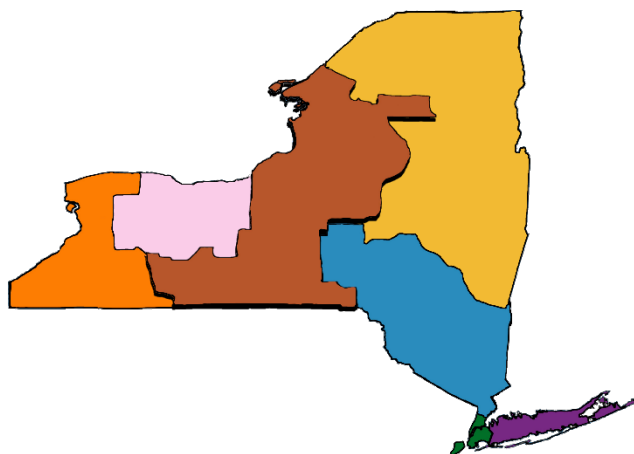
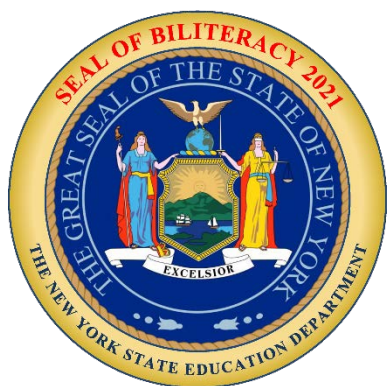


The New York State Seal of Biliteracy in the Mid-State Region



2020-21 Report

**Office of Bilingual Education
and World Languages**

New York State Education Department



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



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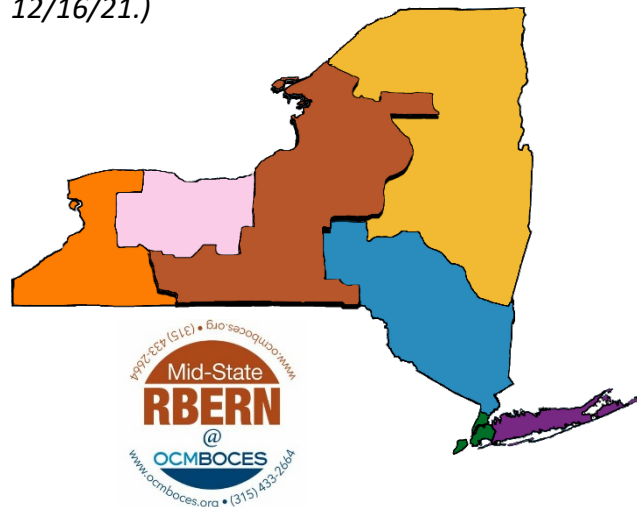
The Mid-State Region

The Mid-State region, represented by the area in brick red on the map on the right, is made up of the counties of Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, and Tompkins.

The region is supported by the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) at OCM BOCES. This RBERN provides services to 126 districts, including professional learning for high-quality instruction and assessments, technical assistance and workshops for educational programs and on the subjects of state and federal laws, regulations and policies. The Mid-State RBERN also serves as a support network for resources and collaboration. The mission of the Mid-State RBERN is to develop and strengthen the skills, knowledge, and competencies of educators, parents and local communities, provide technical assistance, professional learning and resource materials to support academic achievement of ELLs, and support NYSED's commitment to higher standards for all students.

Figure 1. Map of New York State by Region with the Mid-State Region Highlighted (Image downloaded from:

<https://www.nysrbernondemand.org/> on 12/16/21.)



Mid-State RBERN @ OCM BOCES

PO BOX 4754, Syracuse, NY 13221, Tel: (315) 433-2664

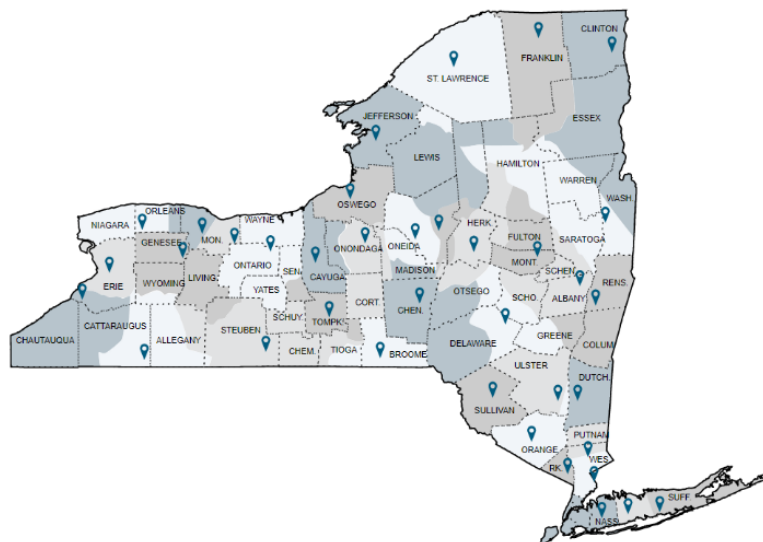
Website: <https://www.ocmboces.org/betac>, Email: rbern@ocmboces.org

This Mid-State region is also serviced by the following BOCES shown in Figure 2 below:

- [Broome-Delaware-Tioga Counties and BOCES](#)
- [Cayuga-Onondaga Counties and BOCES](#)
- [Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida Counties and BOCES](#)
- [Madison-Oneida BOCES](#)
- [Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Counties and BOCES](#)
- [Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Counties and BOCES](#)
- [Oswego County and BOCES \(Center for Instruction, Technology, & Innovation - CiTi\)](#)
- [Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany Counties and BOCES \(Greater Southern Tier\)](#)
- [Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga Counties and BOCES](#)

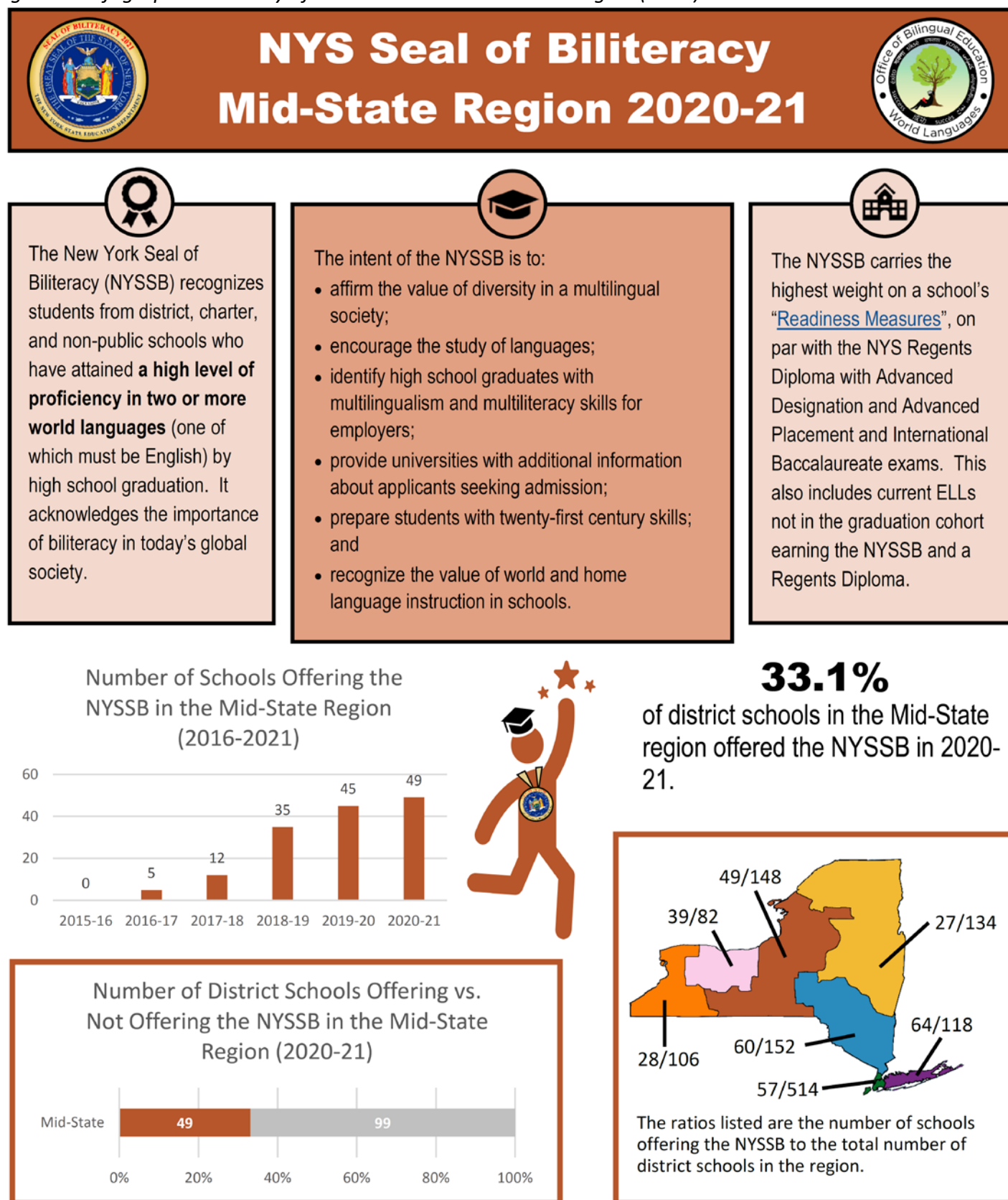
Figure 2. Map of New York State by County with BOCES Pinned (Image downloaded from:

<https://www.boces.org/contact-a-boces/> on 12/16/21.)



An infographic summary of the NYSSB in the Mid-State region for 2020-21 can be found on the following two pages in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Infographic Summary of the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region (2021)

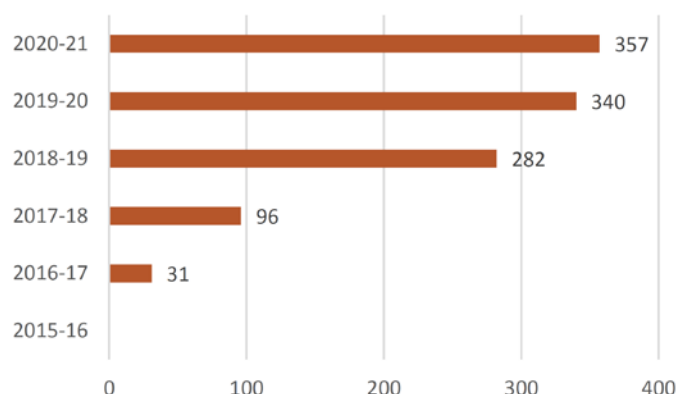


Languages in which Mid-State students earned the NYSSB in 2020-21

Arabic, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Chin, Dari, English, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Karen, Kinyarwanda, Latin, Nepali, Pashto, Polish, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Telugu, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese

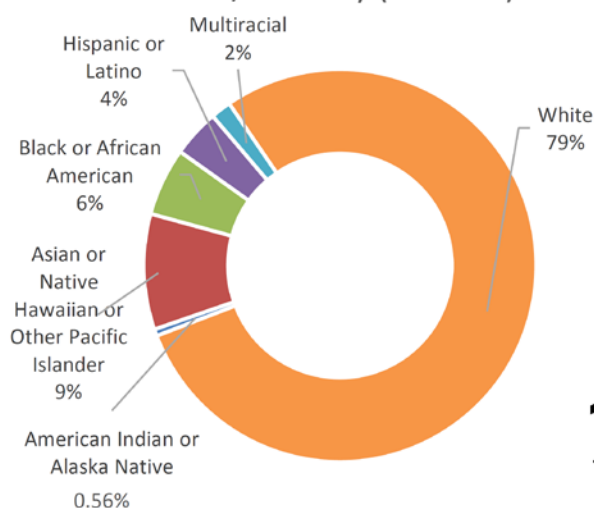
357 students from the Mid-State region earned the NYSSB in 2020-21.

NYSSB Earners in the Mid-State Region (2016-2021)



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

Percentage of Students who Earned the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region by Race/Ethnicity (2020-21)



1 Student from the Mid-State region earned the NYSSB in **three** world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.



13 Students from the Mid-State region earned the NYSSB in **two** world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.

Seal Earners by Gender

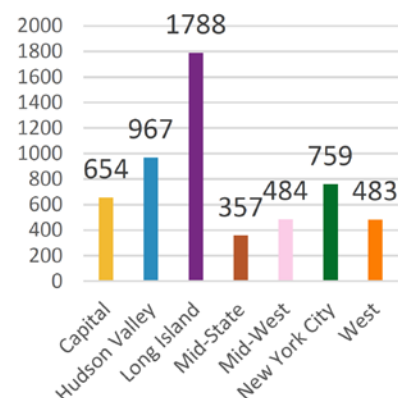
252
(Female)

105
(Male)

Seal Earners by ELL Status

Current ELLs	20
Former/Ever ELLs	39
Never ELLs - Home Language = English	278
Never ELLs - Home Language ≠ English	20

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.



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

Mid-State RBERN @ OCMBOCES

PO BOX 4754, Syracuse, NY 13221, Tel: (315) 433-2664

Website: <https://www.ocmboces.org/betac> , Email: rbern@ocmboces.org

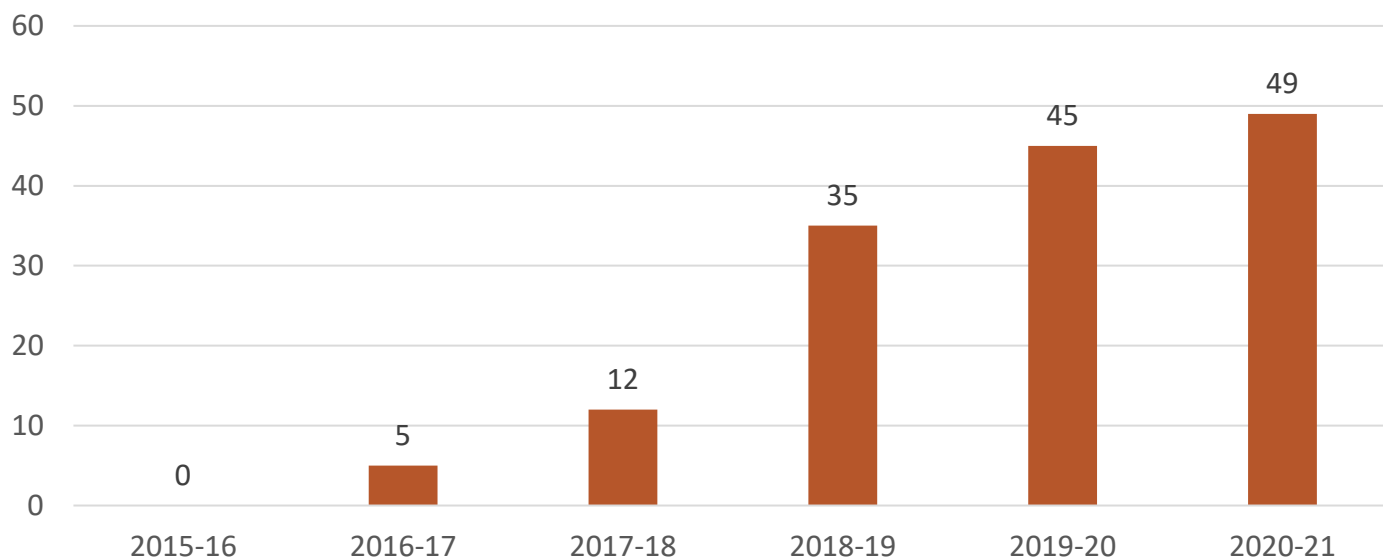


Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages, New York State Education Department
NYSSB Website, Email: nyssb@nysed.gov

Schools that Offered the NYSSB

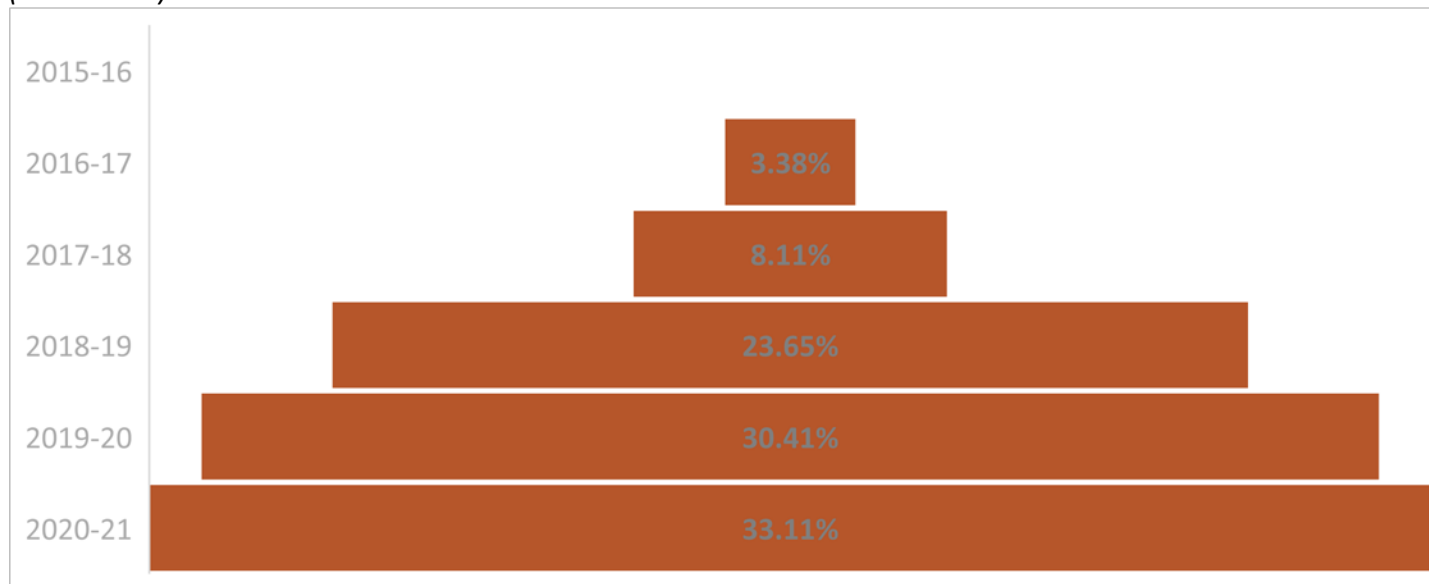
The number of schools in the Mid-State region that offered the NYSSB rose in 2020-21 to 49 schools as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Growth in the Number of Mid-State Region High Schools Offering the NYSSB (2016-2021)



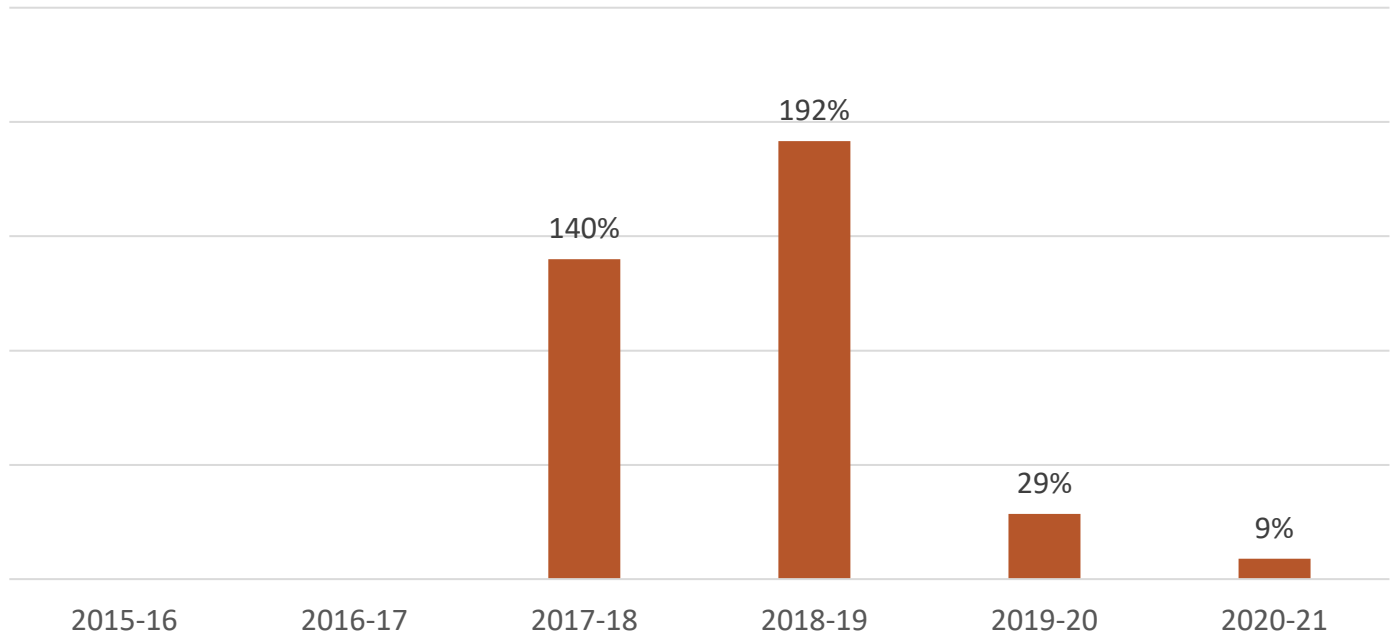
The 49 schools in the Mid-State region that offered the NYSSB in 2020-21 represent over 33% of all district high schools in the region, or one in every three district high schools. As demonstrated in Figure 5, the percentage of schools in Mid-State region has experienced significant growth from the first year the NYSSB was offered, starting at only 3.38% and growing to 33.1% in four years, as shown in Figure 5. One possible explanation for this achievement in the Mid-State region is the existence of a consortium organized by the Mid-State RBERN at OCM BOCES. This consortium brings together schools currently offering the NYSSB as well as those interested in doing so to work together under the guidance of Resource Specialist Maria Fenton to review regulations, develop and strengthen their programs, and to network and problem-solve collaboratively.

Figure 5. Mid-State NYSSB Schools as a Percentage of Total District High Schools in the Mid-State Region (2016-2021)



The growth rate in the number of schools offering the NYSSB in the Mid-State region spiked in the 2018-19 school year, in which the number of schools offering the NYSSB rose by 192%. The growth rate in 2020-21, while still positive, was the smallest one since schools began offering the NYSSB in this region, most likely due to the impact of COVID-19 on instruction and school closures.

Figure 6. Percentage of Growth in Number of Schools in the Mid-State Region Offering the NYSSB (2016-2021)

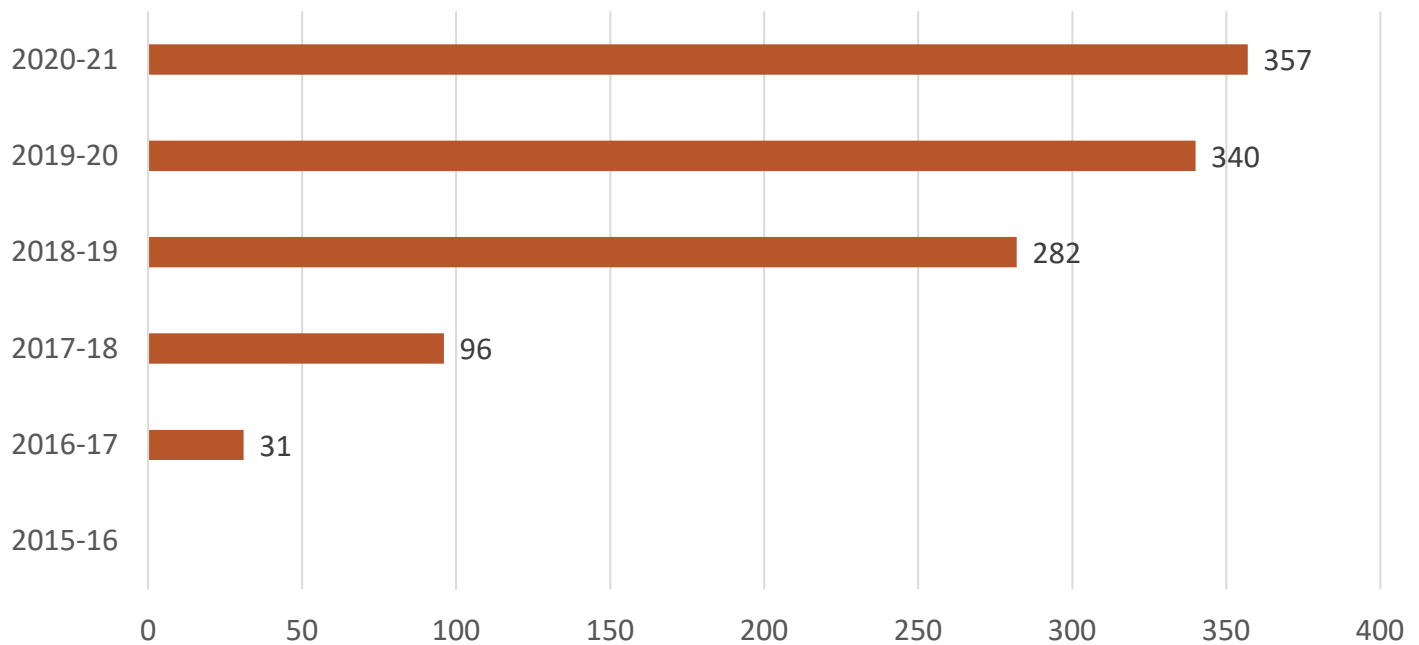


*2021 NYSSB graduates from Jamesville-Dewitt High School
(Photo courtesy of Jamesville-Dewitt CSD)*

Students Who Earned the NYSSB

The number of students who earned the NYSSB in the Mid-State region continued to grow in 2020-21 to 357 students, up more than 5% from the prior year.

Figure 7. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region (2016-2021)

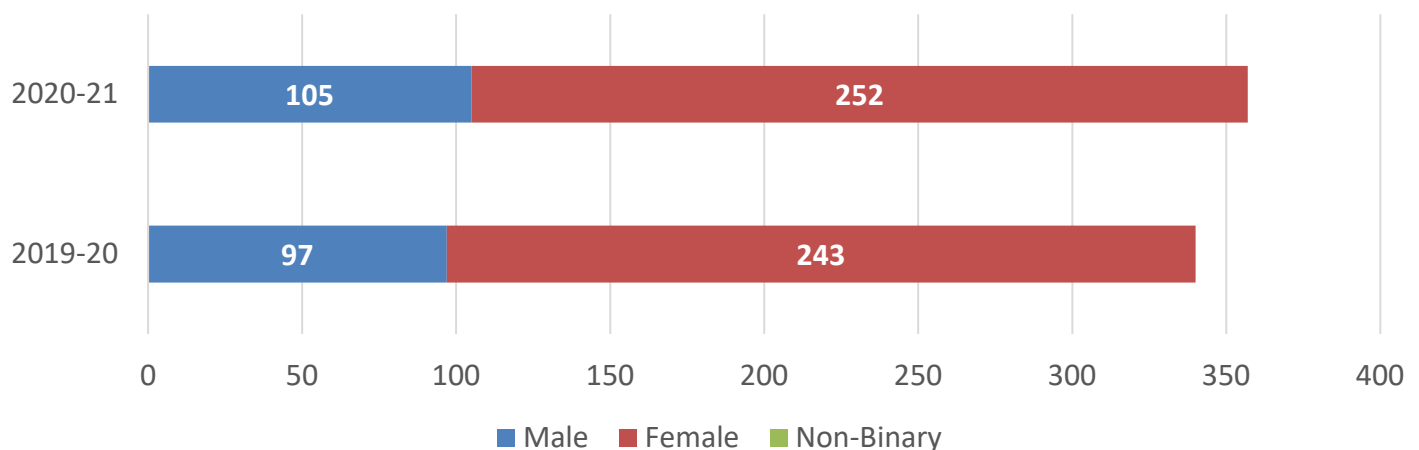


Seal Earners by Gender

The gender make-up of the NYSSB class of 2020-21 from the Mid-State region changed only slightly from the prior year:

- Seal earners who identify as male represented 28.5% of all NYSSB earners from the region in 2019-20, but rose to 29.4% in 2020-21, a gain of only 1%.
- Seal earners who identify as female represented 71.4% of all NYSSB earners from the region in 2019-20, but fell to 70.5% in 2020-21, a loss of only 1%.
- 2020-21 was the first year that students pursuing the NYSSB were able to identify as non-binary. None of the NYSSB earners from the Mid-State region identified in this way in 2020-21.

Figure 8. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region by Gender (2020-2021)



Seal Earners by Race and Ethnicity

When disaggregated by race and ethnicity, the data on Seal earners from the Mid-State region shows small changes in the levels of participation by students of different races and ethnicities. Participation in the NYSSB by Black or African American students rose from 5% to 6% and that of White students rose from 71% to 79%. Participation fell for Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander students (from 13% to 9%), for Hispanic students (from 7% to 4%), and for Multiracial students (from 4% to 2%).

Figure 9. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region by Race/Ethnicity (2020)

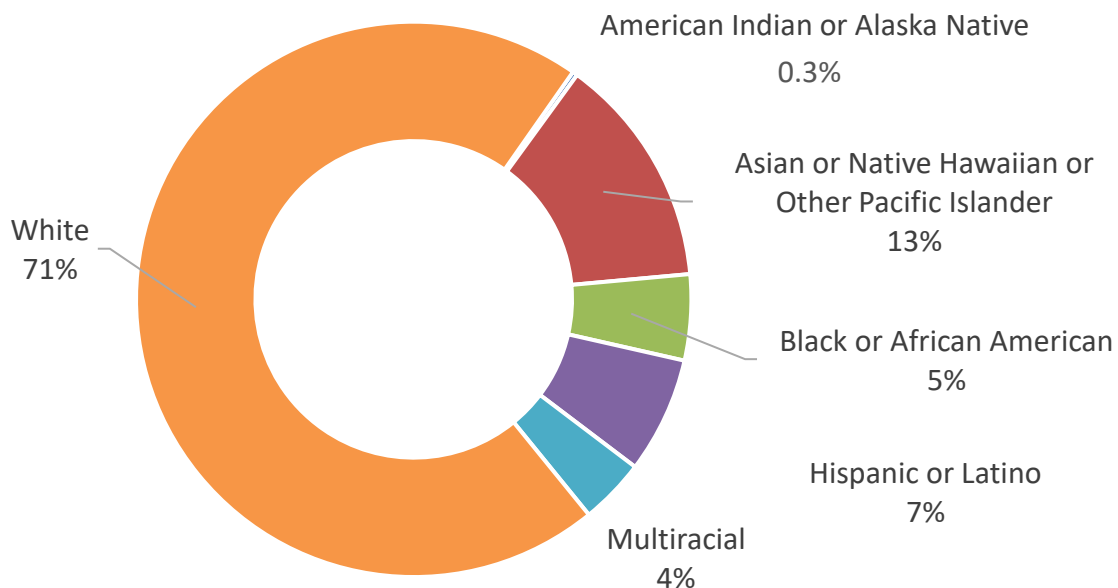
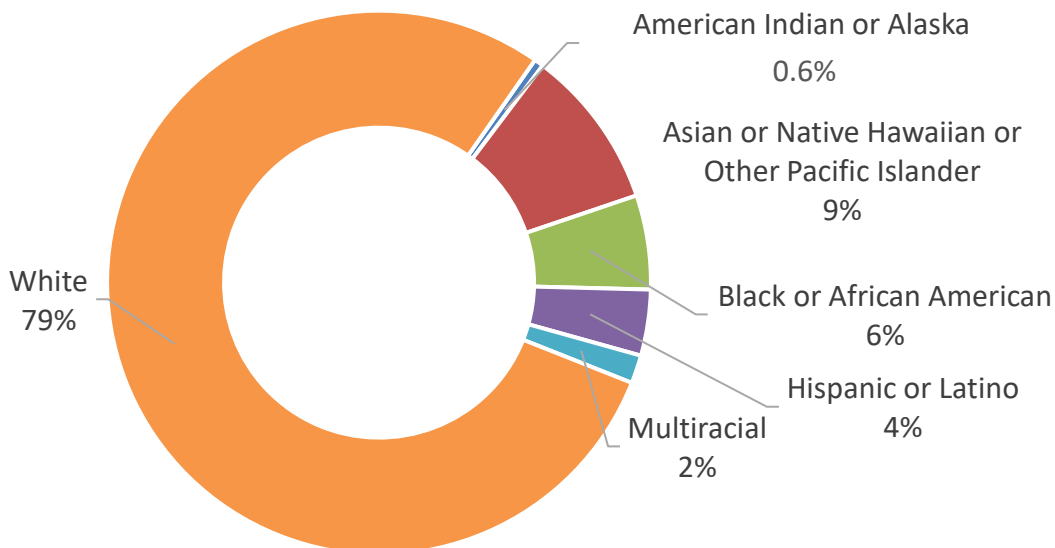


Figure 10. Number of Students Awarded the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region by Race/Ethnicity (2021)



Seal Earners by ELL Status

There are four student sub-groups which are eligible to pursue the NYSSB:

- Current English Language Learners (ELLs) - 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. Current ELLs generally earn the NYSSB in their home language and English.
- Ever ELLs - students who were once ELLs, but who have demonstrated the NYS designated level of proficiency necessary to exit ELL status. Ever ELLs generally earn the NYSSB in their home language and English, although some may take a course of study in another language in which to pursue the NYSSB.
- Never ELLs whose home language is English - students who have never been identified as ELLs and whose home language is English. This sub-group of Never ELLs generally earns the NYSSB in English and a world language that they study through the Checkpoint C level.
- Never ELLs whose home language is other than English - students who have never been identified as ELLs and whose home language is other than English. This sub-group of Never ELLs generally earns the NYSSB in English and their home language, but may also do so in a language that they study in school.

Table 1. Number of Students Who Earned the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region by ELL Status (2016-2021)

	ELLs	Ever ELLs	Never ELLs (Home Language = English)	Never ELLs (Home Language = Other Than English)*
2015-16	0	0	0	n/a
2016-17	6	0	25	n/a
2017-18	5	10	81	n/a
2018-19	7	38	237	n/a
2019-20	14	76	250	n/a
2020-21	20	39	278	20
Total	52	163	871	20

*In 2020-21, NYSED divided the “Never ELL” subgroup of students into those whose home language was English and those whose home language was other than English. Schools were able to report numbers for each of these new subgroups for the first time in 2020-21. Prior to that, this subgroup of students was included in a general “Never ELL” category.

Historically in the Mid-State region, as well as in most other regions of the state, the majority of students who earn the NYSSB are Never ELLs whose home language is English and who earn the NYSSB in English and in a world language studied in school. The participation in the NYSSB among Current ELLs in the Mid-State region remains modest (about 20 Current ELLs for the entire region). To increase the number of Current ELLs participating in the NYSSB:

1. More schools in the Mid-State region are encouraged to sign on to offer the NYSSB. In 2020-21, a little more than one in three district high schools in the Mid-State region offered the NYSSB.
2. Schools offering the NYSSB are encouraged to have systems in place to support the acquisition of English as well as the development of the home language(s) of Current ELLs.
3. Schools offering the NYSSB are encouraged to develop promotional materials in the preferred languages of their ELL families to ensure parents are made aware of the opportunity and benefits of earning the NYSSB.

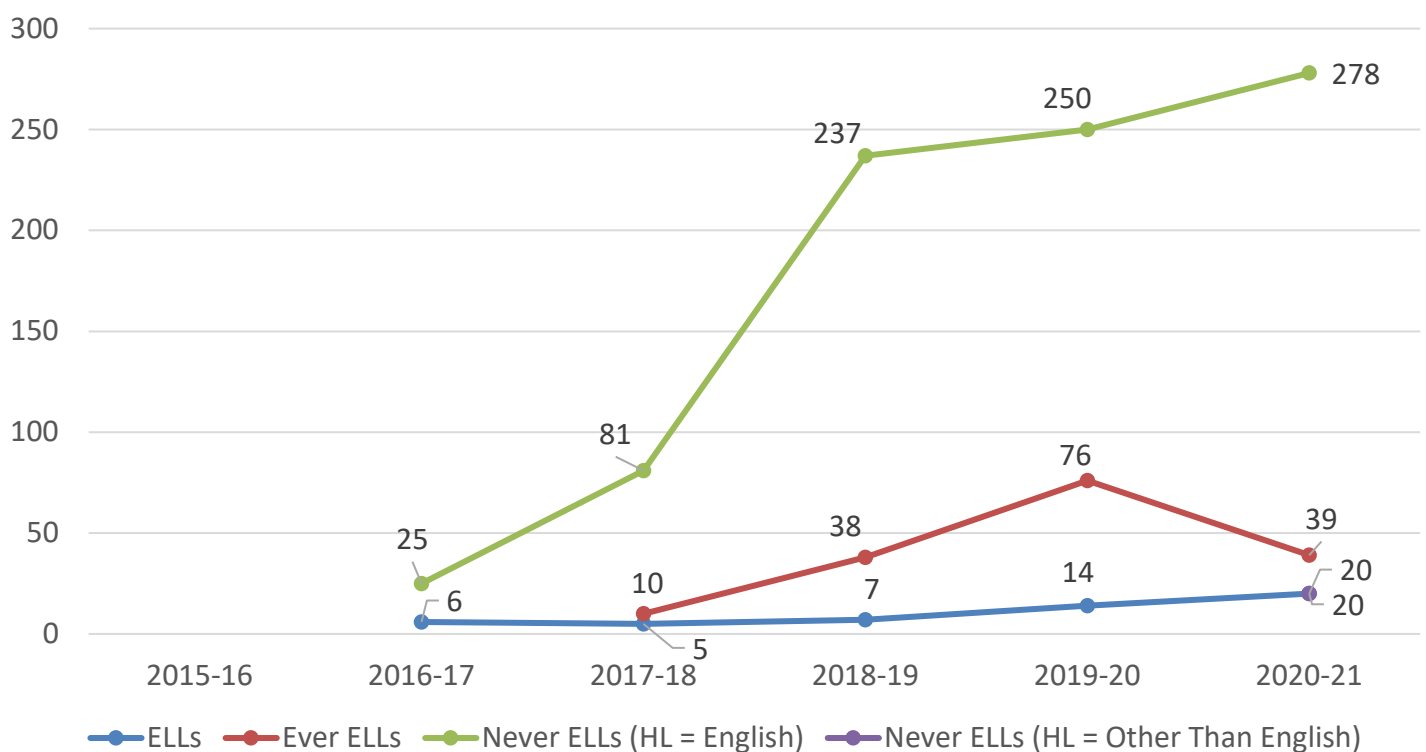
- Schools offering the NYSSB are encouraged to develop a network of adults among their staff and within their communities that are qualified speakers of other languages, focusing on the languages spoken by their Current and Ever ELLs, so as to support the participation in the NYSSB by these students. These adults can serve as advisors to the student pursuing the NYSSB and as members of panel of reviewers that evaluate the students' Culminating Projects.

The number of Ever ELLs grew significantly in 2019-20 to 76 students, almost doubling the number from the prior year and then returning to almost same level as 2018-19 last year.

Never ELLs whose home language is English have historically represented the vast majority of Seal earners, not only within the Mid-State region, but across New York State. This population of Seal earners has shown the most drastic growth within the region, growing tenfold from 25 Seal earners in the first year the NYSSB was offered to 278 in 2020-21. It is likely that Never ELLs whose home language is English is the most easily identifiable student sub-group, given that they represent any senior who is currently completing a Checkpoint C world language course, or seniors who completed such a class with an average of 85% or better in the prior year. These students are enrolled in coursework that directly supports the attainment of the NYSSB, including regular access to instructors who speak the world language in which the students are pursuing the NYSSB.

Starting in the 2020-21 school year, the subgroup "Never ELLs" was divided into those whose home language is English and those whose home language is other than English. The purpose of this re-categorization is to distinguish students who are native English speakers from those who speak a language other than English at home. This latter group of students is often referred to as Heritage Language Speakers. Schools may face challenges in identifying these students as potential NYSSB applicants since they are not identified as ELLs and may speak a language that is not taught in their schools. In the Mid-State region, there were 20 Never ELLs who home language (HL) is other than English in 2020-21.

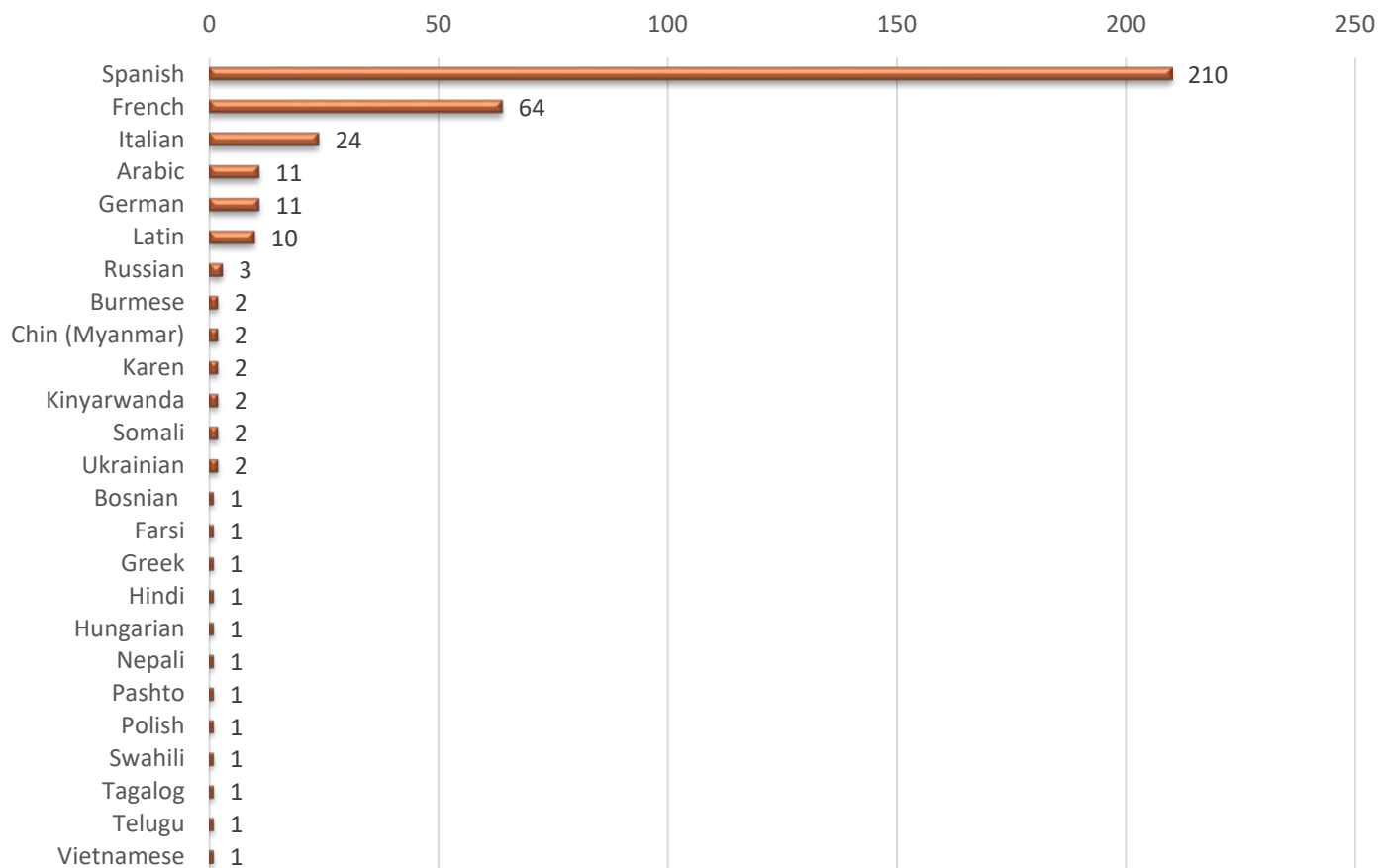
Figure 11. Number of Students Who Earned the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region by ELL Status (2016-2021)



Seal Earners by Language

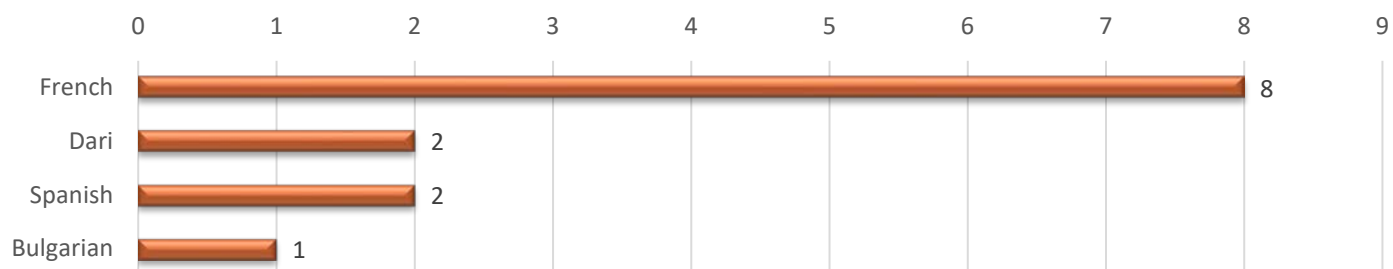
Students from the Mid-State region earned the NYSSB in Albanian, American Sign Language, Arabic, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Chin, Dari, English, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Karen, Kinyarwanda, Latin, Nepali, Pashto, Polish, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Telugu, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. Figure 12 shows the world languages other than English in which students earned the NYSSB in the Mid-State region, ranked from most to least frequent.

Figure 12. Number of Students Who Earned the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region by World Language (2016-2021)



13 students were awarded the NYSSB in two world languages in addition to English, as shown in Figure 13. One student from the Mid-State region completed the NYSSB in three world languages in addition to English in 2020-21.

Figure 13. Number of Students Who Earned the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region in Two World Languages in Addition to English (2021)

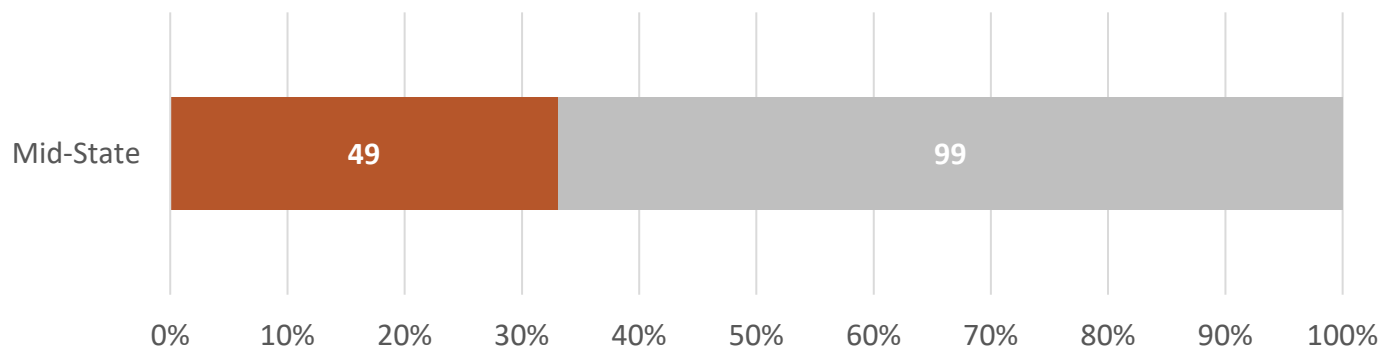


Areas for Potential Growth of the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region

Schools

There is significant potential for growth within the Mid-State region, which has 99 district high schools that did not have a NYSSB program as of 2020-21, as shown in Figure 14 below.

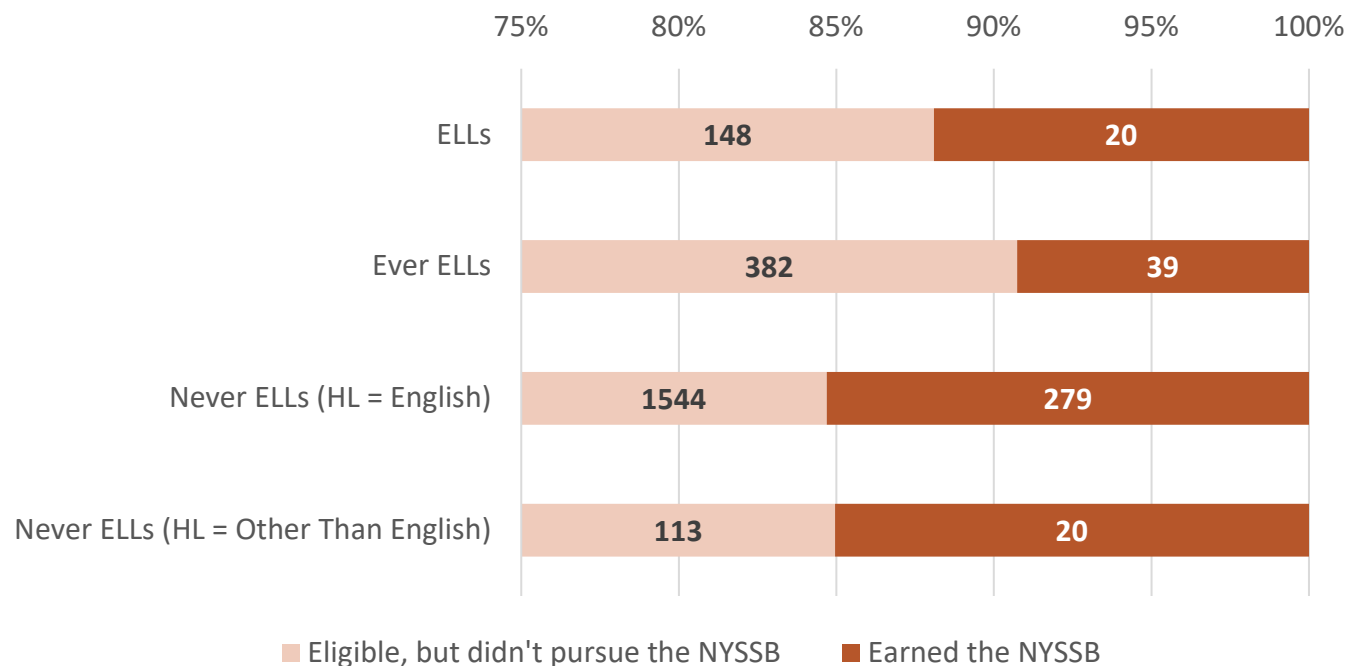
Figure 14. District High Schools in the Mid-State Region Offering vs. Not Offering the NYSSB (2021)



Students

In the Mid-State region, as in most regions, the largest group of students earning the NYSSB are Never ELLs whose home language is English and who are taking a course of study in a world language in high school. Figure 15 below shows the total students in the Mid-State region who earned the NYSSB in 2020-21 as compared to those who were eligible, but did not pursue the NYSSB, disaggregated by ELL status.

Figure 15. Seal Earners vs. Eligible Students Not Pursuing the NYSSB in the Mid-State Region by ELL Status (2021)



Eligible students include any student graduating in 2020-21 who was proficient in or studying English and another world language at the Checkpoint C level or higher.

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New York State Department of Education (NYSED) (2022). *The New York State Seal of Biliteracy 2020-21 Report*. By the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages.



2021 NYSSB graduates from Ithaca High School
(Photo courtesy of Ithaca CSD)