New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB)

The NYSSB for Families

What is the NYSSB?

The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) is an award given to high school graduates who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency 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.

How does the NYSSB benefit students?

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 diploma for these students 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.

Who is eligible to pursue the NYSSB?

Any student attending a district that offers the NYSSB who is proficient in and/or studying English and at least one world language is eligible to pursue this award. This includes students who speak a language other than English at home and those who are completing a course of study in a world language through high school.

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

What do students need to do to earn the NYSSB?

There are multiple pathways to earn the NYSSB. Whichever pathway is chosen, students must demonstrate the required level of proficiency by 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 earning an 85% or better in English or world language coursework, achieving a set score on national tests (such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, AAPPL, STAMP4S, or other exams), and completing and presenting a Culminating Project in English and/or a world language.

How can I support my student to pursue the NYSSB?

First and foremost, if your family speaks a language other than English at home, encourage your student to continue to develop their skills in speaking, reading, and writing in that language. As early as possible in high school, talk to your student's school counselor about the possibility of earning the NYSSB and make a multi-year plan for graduation that culminates in your student earning this award. Discuss with your student the importance of developing proficiency in more than one language and how this might help them in their college and career aspirations.

Where can I find more information on the NYSSB?

For more information on your district's NYSSB program, talk to your student's school counselor, world language teacher, or English/English to Speakers of Other Languages teacher. Families can find information on the NYSSB website or by contacting the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages via email (nyssb@nysed.gov) or phone (518.473.7505).

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New York State EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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