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Seal of Biliteracy Spotlight

An Interview with Noemi Rodriguez

District Supervisor of
World Language, ESL,
Music and Family and
Consumer Service
Pascack Valley Regional
High School District

"The Seal offers the
opportunity for our
students to shine."

**Q: Please tell us about
your experience
administering the New
Jersey Seal of
Biliteracy for your
district.**

We are in our third year
administering
assessments and offering
students the opportunity



Welcome to the New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy Newsletter!

The Seal of Biliteracy is a national initiative that recognizes bilingual and multilingual students graduating from participating high school districts. In 2016, New Jersey became the 17th state to implement the State Seal of Biliteracy. Since then, over 3,579 students spanning 120 districts and 20 counties in New Jersey have been awarded the Seal at graduation.

The New Jersey Department of Education is collaborating with Rutgers Graduate School of Education to support participating districts that award the Seal of Biliteracy, as well as those new to the program who plan on participating in 2019. We also plan to share your stories to document students' and districts' multilingual achievements.

In our newsletters, you will find useful information about upcoming professional development opportunities; stories highlighting students, schools, and districts, and procedures for implementing the Seal of Biliteracy. Enjoy

to meet the established criteria for the Seal. In our first year, we allowed 11th graders to meet the criteria through their world language AP exam and PARCC and PSAT scores. Then last year, our second year, we had great support from our administration in order to pay for the STAMP exam for interested students. This allowed us to offer the Seal to 11th and 12th graders who are interested in and met the criteria. In 2018, 64 students received the Seal for their proficiency in English and these languages: Spanish, Italian, Hindi, French and Chinese. This year, we already have 44 students who have qualified for the Seal and we plan to continue testing again in late January/early February.

Q: How do you promote the program?

Working with our Director of Curriculum, we send email blasts to the students and parents and guardians in our community to let them know about this opportunity. Our World Language teachers also share information with their students about the exam. However, we don't mandate the exam. Students can self-nominate with the hope of earning the Seal. We hold information sessions in our high schools where we provide a presentation with an overview of the program

reading our Seal of Biliteracy Spotlight and consider submitting information about your Bilingual/ESL and World Languages programs.



Join the New Jersey Department of Education and Rutgers Graduate School of Education on **Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 11:00am** for our webinar with Thomas Sauer. We will be talking about how the TELL project can support implementing the NJ Seal of Biliteracy.

[Click Here Register](#)



Click on the link below to share exciting news about the Seal of Biliteracy in your district for our upcoming newsletters:

[Spotlight Submission Form](#)

and how to apply, and to introduce them to the STAMP assessment so they become acclimated with the exam [[Click here](#) for a list of accepted assessments].

Q: Do you have any advice for districts new to offering the Seal?

There are a few things I would suggest:

1. Make sure your administration is on board and supportive of the assessments;
2. Find a good time of year to administer the assessments; and
3. Ensure you have technical infrastructure and support for the assessments.

In our case, we have strong administrative support. Because the state needs the scores by March, we opted to test at the end of January or early February. In order to make the process manageable, it is really helpful to have the assistance of an assessment coordinator or a teacher, as it does require coordination with schedules and enough time to proctor.

Q: What is your vision regarding offering the Seal in your district?

We are all about providing as many opportunities as possible to showcase our students

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Thomas Sauer

The TELL Project and the Seal of Biliteracy

February 12, 2019

11-12 am

[Click here to register](#)



Check us out on Twitter

Find helpful information about the Seal in our state and beyond. As we work to promote the Seal of Biliteracy, remember to like and follow [@nj_biliteracy](#) and retweet us with the hashtag [#NJSealofBiliteracy](#).

as language learners. So when I heard about the Seal, I jumped on this as an opportunity where our students can shine. It offers one more way to highlight their academic achievement in language—in addition to our honor societies, culture clubs and international exchanges.

It has been very exciting working with students who earn two seals. We have students who are demonstrating that they're trilingual! What is exciting is that even if we do not offer instruction in some of the students' home languages—like Polish, Hindi or Russian, they still will get recognition from the state for their language proficiency via the Seal if they demonstrate proficiency by taking one of the accepted assessments [[Click here](#) for a list of accepted assessments]. We are very proud of the students who earn the Seal.

This newsletter has been distributed by Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Education.

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