



# New York State Seal of Biliteracy

East Ramapo Central School District





### **What is the New York State Seal of Biliteracy?**

The NYSSB recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. The intent of the NYSSB is to encourage the study of languages, to identify high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers, to provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission and placement, to prepare students with twenty-first century skills, to recognize the value of language instruction, and to affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society. Successful candidates will earn three points in English and three points in each world language from a points matrix, which includes course grades, national and state exams, transcripts, and culminating projects. The NYSSB takes the form of a Seal on the student's diploma and a medallion worn at graduation.

### **Why pursue the New York State Seal of Biliteracy?**

**STUDENTS** - Do you speak a language other than English at home? Do you study a world language in school? Get recognized for your skills and become part of an elite group of students in New York State by pursuing the Seal of Biliteracy. Although more and more students earn the NYSSB each year, less than five percent of graduating seniors are awarded the Seal. Distinguish yourself from other high school graduates and new college entrants by earning this commendation, which attests to your high proficiency level in English and one or more world languages. Your high school diploma will bear a special Seal of Biliteracy and you will receive a medallion to wear at graduation. For more information on the Seal, ask your teacher (English, English as a New Language, or World Language) or your school counselor. Or [click here](#).

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**PARENTS** - How can I support my child 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. [Click here](#) for more.

**TEACHERS** - The Seal recognizes students who develop a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. Recognize the hard work of your students, while bolstering enrollment in your courses. Many Seal candidates choose to complete a culminating project to earn two points toward the Seal. This project can easily be embedded into your courses. Showcase the wonderfully rich and rigorous instruction you provide in English and world languages to parents and your school's community. For world language teachers, the NYSSB is aligned to the revised New York State Learning Standards for World Languages adopted by the Board of Regents in March of 2021. Find more information and resources here [NYSSB Wakelet](#).

**ADMINISTRATORS** - The NYSSB not only supports rigorous curriculum and high achievement, it also positively contributes to your school's ESSA Accountability score in the same way as Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses and the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.

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## Requirements to Earn the NYSSB

This award is denoted by a seal affixed to the student's diploma and a notation on the student's high school transcript. To earn the NYSSB, students must demonstrate Intermediate High proficiency in English and the required level of proficiency in one or more world languages set forth by the NYS Learning Standards for World Languages, adopted by the NYS Board of Regents in March 2021. Students can earn points toward the NYSSB in a number of ways, including:

- Completing coursework in English and/or a world language with an average of 85% or better;
- Completing a Home Language Arts Program with an average of 85% or better;
- Earning a set score on an approved assessment in English and/or a world language;
- Completing and 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).

Click [here](#) to see the official criteria to earn the NYSSB.

Click [here](#) to see the list of approved assessments in English and World Languages.

Click [here](#) to see the list of approved assessments in World Languages organized by language.

[2023-2024 Seal of Biliteracy Student Application Form](#)

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