

“

To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world.

-Noam Chomsky

”



### Seal of Biliteracy Coordinators

**Lorena Wagar**  
Williamsville East High School  
lwagar@williamsvillek12.org

**Katherine Rautenstrauch**  
Williamsville North High School  
krautenstrauch@williamsvillek12.org

**Lori Chilcott**  
Williamsville South High School  
lchilcott@williamsvillek12.org

**Daniel Murtha**  
District Office  
dmurtha@williamsvillek12.org

NEW YORK STATE  
**SEAL OF BILITERACY**  
PROGRAM

2024-2025

105 Casey Road  
P.O. Box 5000  
East Amherst, NY 14051

Sept. 2024





## What is the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB)?

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.

[WWW.WILLIAMSVILLEK12.ORG](http://WWW.WILLIAMSVILLEK12.ORG)

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

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. For more information on the Seal, ask your teacher (English, English as a New Language, or World Language) or your school counselor.



## Earning the NYSSB:

Students wishing to receive the NYSSB must earn three (3) points from the English criteria and three (3) points from the World Language criteria below.

Criteria (English)	Pts.	Criteria (World Language)	Pts.
80 or higher on the NYS Regents Examination in English Language Arts	1	Complete a Checkpoint C level World Language course, with a grade of 85 or higher	1
English Language Learners (ELLs) score 75 or above on two Regents exams other than English, without translation	1	Provide transcripts from a school in a country outside of the U.S. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•three years of language other than English</li> <li>•grade 8 or beyond</li> <li>•average of B or higher</li> </ul>	1
ELLs earn an overall score of 290 or better on the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) (grades 9-12)	1	Score at a proficient level on an accredited Checkpoint C World Language assessment <i>*Please see guidance in WCSD NYSSB Handbook.*</i>	1
Complete all 11th- and 12th-grade ELA courses with an average of 85 or higher	1	Present a Culminating Project that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district's NYS Seal of Biliteracy Committee and that is aligned to the NYS Checkpoint C Learning Standards to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in the target language. <i>*Please see guidance in WCSD NYSSB Handbook.*</i>	2
Score at a proficient level on an approved English assessment  <b>(Includes Stamp4S, AAPPL, and English AP Examinations)</b>	1		
Present a Culminating Project that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district's NYS Seal of Biliteracy Committee to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in English. <i>*Please see guidance in WCSD NYSSB Handbook.*</i>	2		