

# Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

New York State Education Department

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[OBEWL website](#)



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Dear Esteemed Educators,

As we embark on a new school year, I want to express my deepest gratitude and admiration for the extraordinary impact each of you has on the lives of our students. Teaching is not just a job; it is a calling that transforms lives and shapes the future. Your dedication and passion are invaluable, and we at the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages are honored to support and work alongside you in this vital mission.



As we look forward to the 2024-2025 school year, it is important to recognize the profound difference you make in the lives of our English Language Learners and Multilingual Learners. Your commitment to building equitable opportunities and fostering an inclusive environment ensures that every student has the chance to thrive and succeed. You are not only educators but also mentors, advocates, and champions for their potential.

Our commitment to you as a state institution remains steadfast. We are dedicated to providing the support, resources, and partnership you need to continue your impactful work. Together, we must strive to prepare our students for a successful future, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to reach their highest aspirations.

We see your efforts, value your contributions, and are here to support you every step of the way. As your Associate Commissioner, it is my honor to wish you a school year filled with achievement, joy, and fulfillment. Let us continue to make a difference, one student at a time, and work together to ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for all that you do, and here’s to an inspiring and successful 2024-2025 school year!

In Unity,

*Elisa Alvarez*

## OBEWL: Vision and Priorities

With a new school year upon us, the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) would like to reintroduce our vision and priorities to help educators, administrators, and policymakers create new and lasting opportunities for the English Language Learners (ELLs) and Multilingual Learners (MLs) of New York. Our vision is to provide leadership that embraces linguistically diverse learners, to establish a multilingual society. Our mission is to ensure that all New York State ELLs attain the highest level of academic success and that all MLs – which include ELLs, Former/Ever ELLs, World Languages students, and heritage speakers of world languages – achieve the highest level of language proficiency in English and in one or more other languages. To achieve these goals, OBEWL’s work focuses on the following priorities:

**Priority 1: Standards and Instructional Support:** Provide instructional support to P-12 schools, districts, and families in New York State for the development of multilingual and multicultural competencies for all students. OBEWL supports Bilingual Education (including Dual Language Immersion and Transitional Bilingual Education), English as a New Language (ENL), and world language programs that serve ELLs—including Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) and ELLs with disabilities—and other MLs. OBEWL, in collaboration with other entities, develops projects and resources for educators in high-leverage instructional practices.

**Priority 2: Enforcement and Monitoring:** Enforce existing policies that ensure equity in education for ELLs and Former ELLs across all grade levels in New York State schools. OBEWL conducts enforcement and monitoring activities to ensure that districts and schools adhere to and are accountable for the proper implementation of Commissioner’s Regulations Part 154, Title III of ESSA, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act, and NYS Education Law 3204. OBEWL offers technical assistance, support, and guidance to help districts and schools provide high quality education for their ELLs and other MLs.

**Priority 3: Policy:** Identify barriers to student success for ELLs and other MLs, develop resources, and recommend policy to NYSED leadership for adoption by the Board of Regents to address and eliminate these barriers. Using a strategic approach supported by data, OBEWL will continuously evaluate current policy and practices across the state to identify barriers to graduation and other student achievements and then will propose actions to address these issues, including developing new policy, offering professional learning based on high-leverage teaching practices, and improving communication with and among districts and schools.

**Priority 4: Building Professional Capacity:** Expand the professional skills and expertise of P-12 educators and school support staff to provide high-leverage teaching practices through culturally responsive education for ELLs and other MLs in New York State. The objective of our professional learning events, materials and guidance are to assist in developing expert knowledge around Language Acquisition, Bilingual Education, ENL Strategies, Social Emotional Learning, Content Area Instruction, New York State Next Generation Learning Standards, and ELL Compliance Mandates.

We look forward to having the staff at [OBEWL](#) and at our [Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks \(RBERNs\)](#) work with you on all the issues that affect your ELL population and all multilingual learners from classroom support to compliance and technical assistance. We wish you and your students an exciting and meaningful school year.



# Voices United Conference

**ADVANCING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS &  
BUILDING PATHWAYS TO  
MULTILINGUALISM**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2024**

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY AT LINCOLN CENTER  
113 W. 60TH ST., NEW YORK, NY 10023

Presented by the NYSED Office of Bilingual  
Education and World Languages



Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Ayanna  
Cooper, author of *And Justice for ELs: A  
Leader's Guide to Creating and  
Sustaining Equitable Schools*.



Celebrating 50 years of progress since the milestones  
of *Lau v Nichols*, the *ASPIRA* Consent Decree, and the  
*Equal Educational Opportunities Act*. Promoting a  
culture of multilingualism among all New Yorkers.



This event will provide New York State educators and  
administrators with a one-day professional development  
opportunity to strengthen theoretical and practical knowledge to  
implement high-quality academically rigorous instruction for  
English Language Learners (ELLs).



## **Hispanic Heritage Month All Year Long!**

It's Hispanic Heritage Month, the time of year when Hispanic history, food, music, and people are celebrated across the country from September 15th to October 15<sup>th</sup>. School hallways will be adorned with colorful images of iconic Hispanic figures, and districts will organize events that bring communities together to savor the cuisines from various regions of Latin America and Spain. Communities will enjoy the vibrant music that represents these regions. Additionally, the media will feature stories highlighting Hispanic achievements and contributions. All these efforts aim to honor and celebrate Hispanic culture and heritage during this month.

In New York State, it's noteworthy that Hispanic Heritage Month coincides with the early months of the school year. This timing offers us a unique opportunity to create a learning environment and school culture where tribute, respect, and affirmation of communities' backgrounds are ongoing practices. In *Language, Culture, and Teachings: Critical Perspectives*, Sonia Nieto reminds us (citing Kalantzis, Cope, and Slade) that "We are not simply bearers of culture, languages, and histories...[but also] creators of human futures." As educators, we hold the power to create and foster a school culture that is not only relevant to students' native and social contexts but also helps all students and their families build meaningful relationships within their school community each day.

Celebrating cultural heritage should be a continuous practice and not confined to a specific time of year or a particular space within the building. Just as academic content is crucial for student success, so is the commitment to making students feel valued for their histories, traditions, and identities. Educators and administrators must actively work to elevate our students and their families by involving them in shaping a culture that reflects their experiences. OBEWL strives to model this continuous approach in every initiative. A testament to our commitment is the outstanding 22 percent increase in the number of students receiving the NY Seal of Biliteracy in 2024. Additionally, we are proud to advocate for and support the expansion of Dual Language Immersion programs, which we hope will lead the way in creating a pathway to socio-cultural unity and linguistic diversity.

The goals of Hispanic Heritage Month should include the creation of daily opportunities for students to hear their names spoken with admiration and respect. Integrating and appreciation for other's linguistic abilities and global perspectives into daily instruction for all students while engaging parents consistently, should be a priority. Let's support the dream of guiding children to success by demonstrating that their educators are with them every step of the way.

## **NYS Museum Creates Hispanic Heritage Month Online Resource**

The NYSED Office of Cultural Education and the NYS Museum have developed a [new website](#) to celebrate Hispanic heritage and honor the diverse histories, cultures, achievements, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities and individuals. This page offers a variety of resources, including materials for educators, recorded lectures, and program opportunities at the New York State Museum and throughout the state.

Items featured on the site include:

- Information on NYS Museum Programs and Events, including a [film screening of \*Back to Las Villas\* and panel discussion](#) on the vibrant history of Latin American retreats in the Catskills on October 13;
- Video presentations from Dr. Pedro A. Regaldo through which educators can earn 2.5 hours of CTLE credit;
- Links to various [Hispanic History Heritage Events](#) taking place at museums and historical societies across New York State;
- Thousands of [Hispanic Heritage Month Resources](#) presented through the NYS Archives;
- A collection of [Hispanic American Culture & History](#) curated classroom resources from PBS LearningMed.

## Upcoming World Language Conferences

### New York City Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYCAFLT) Fall Conference, September 28, 2024



NYCAFLT educators believe that education should be accessible to everyone. The New York City-based organization strives to provide affordable and high-quality educational services that empower students to achieve their academic and personal goals. Their approach to education is a holistic one, focusing not only on academic achievement but also on personal growth and development. NYCAFLT educators work closely with students to help them develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in school and in life.

The NYCAFLT conference planning is made up of experienced educators who are passionate about helping students succeed and are committed to providing personalized and engaging educational services that meet the unique needs of each student. The organization will host their fall conference on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 1PM. For more information, please visit their [website](#).

### New York State Association for Language Teachers (NYSALFT) Annual Conference, November 8-9, 2024

The New York State Association for Language Teachers was founded in 1917. Its purpose was, and remains, to serve the needs of the profession dedicated to the development of second language skills and cultural awareness among students. The creation of NYSALFT marked an important step in enabling schools to give their students an informed and sensitive global perspective in an era of international turmoil.

Since that time, the same spirit has motivated world language teachers and served as the basic inspiration for this vibrant organization. Each year the Association offers its members:

- A network of communication with colleagues throughout the state;
- Opportunities for professional growth through conferences and workshops regionally and statewide;
- A direct link with the State Education Department;
- Advocacy to the members of the Board of Regents and the state's legislators;
- Various support services designed to enrich teachers' professional lives.

NYSALFT will hold its **107<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** on November 8-9<sup>th</sup> at the Niagara Falls Convention Center in Niagara Falls, NY. With over 60 different workshops offered, there something for everyone! Celia Chomón Zamora will deliver a keynote address entitled "Bridging Bytes: Building Language Connections in the AI Classroom," as well as a workshop the following day. Representatives from the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages will give a NYSED Update during the Saturday luncheon.

Click [here](#) to register.



## US Department of Education Hosts Seal of Biliteracy Summit

On June 24-25<sup>th</sup>, the US Department of Education’s Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) hosted a Seal of Biliteracy summit entitled “Celebrating Language, Literacy, and Culture.” The event was held on the campus of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. and was attended by state representatives and educators from across the nation.

This summit was designed to connect the positive impact of being multilingual with students’ academic, linguistic, cognitive, economic, and social-cultural outcomes. The conference listed six actions that educators can take to foster multilingualism:

- Position multilingualism as a pillar of our overall [Raise the Bar: Lead the World](#) efforts from and support the Department’s multilingualism agenda.
- Message the importance of being bilingual/multilingual as an economic imperative.
- Drive awareness about educational, economic, and cultural advantages of being bilingual and biliterate.
- Create awareness and advocacy for “Cradle to Career” education systems to provide every student with pathways to become multilingual.
- Promote increased awareness and access to programs that lead to students learning language as an industry-recognized credential to secure in-demand jobs.
- Promote first-language proficiency as an asset and highlight the vast number of languages spoken across the country.

This event provided opportunities for attendees to learn, celebrate, and connect with others around through a variety of presentations. New York’s very own Olivia Perretto, a 2024 New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) graduate from White Plains high school, was the opening student presenter. Having earned the Seal in four languages in addition to English, Olivia gave an impassioned speech entitled “Reaping the Benefits of Bilingualism” On day two of the event, Associate Commissioner Elisa Alvarez spoke as part of team in a “Fireside Chat with State Leaders.” Finally, World Language Associate, Candace Black, offered a “Data Talk” with Arthur Chou, Managing Director of the Academic Learning Company, LLC, and Samuel Aguirre, Director of WIDA Español at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research.



*Dr. Miguel Cardona and 2024 NYSSB graduate from White Plains HS Olivia Perretto (center), flanked by her grandmother and mother (left) and Ms. Yolanda Rodriguez, Director of World Languages and Multilingual Learner Programs at White Plains CSD (right)*

## **Blue Ribbon Commission Recommendations for New York’s Graduation Requirements**

In 2019, the Board of Regents created a Blue-Ribbon Commission to rethink New York State’s graduation requirements. The Commission’s recommendations culminated from a robust stakeholder input process and an extensive review of relevant research, literature, and experience. Commission members ultimately advanced, fifty-nine preliminary recommendations aligned with the four priority areas. Next, Commission members voted electronically on the preliminary recommendations. Thirty-seven preliminary recommendations were identified, which were then combined into the following twelve recommendations:

1. Replace the three diploma types with one diploma, with the option to add seals and endorsements.
2. Include civic responsibility (ethics); cultural competence; financial literacy education; fine and performing arts; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); and writing, including writing skills for real-world scenarios in diploma credit requirements.
3. Ensure access to career and technical education (CTE), including internships and work based learning opportunities for all students across New York State.
4. Move to a model that organizes credit requirements—including content area credit requirements—into larger categories (e.g., mathematics and science courses could be included in the “STEM” category).
5. Reduce and/or modify diploma assessment requirements to allow more assessment options.
6. Create state-developed rubric(s) for any performance-based assessments allowed as an option to satisfy the diploma assessment requirements.
7. Create more specific, tailored graduation requirements to address the unique circumstances of certain groups of students (e.g., non-compulsory age students, newcomer students, refugee students).
8. Provide exemptions from diploma assessment requirements for students with significant cognitive disabilities and major life events and extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical conditions, death of a family member, trauma prior to sitting for a required exam).
9. Pursue regulatory changes to allow the discretion to confer high school degrees posthumously.
10. Require all New York State teacher preparation programs to provide instruction in culturally responsive-sustaining education (CRSE) practices and pedagogy.
11. Require that professional development plans include CRSE practices and pedagogy.
12. Review and revise the New York State learning standards.

NYSED will conduct a series of Blue-Ribbon Commission “[Ambassador Forums](#)” between July and October 2024. These forums will provide an opportunity for the public to share their thoughts about the four proposed transformations. In November 2024, the Department’s implementation plan will be presented to the Board of Regents with projected timelines, affected regulations, and other considerations. The Board must approve any changes to the State’s graduation requirements; until such time, the existing graduation requirements remain in effect for all public school students in New York.

Additional information about the Graduation Measures initiative can be found on the [Department’s Graduation Measures website](#).

## Meet the New Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) Staff

### **Carissa Zuinga, OBEWL Associate in Bilingual Education**

Ms. Carissa Zuniga is committed to advancing Bilingual Education and supporting English Language Learners. With a robust academic background, Carissa has established herself as a dedicated advocate for educational excellence and inclusivity.

Ms. Zuniga earned her bachelor's degree in history, followed by a master's degree in education, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Bilingual Education from The College of Saint Rose. Her pursuit of academic and professional growth continued with a focus on School District Leadership through Molloy University.

Prior to joining OBEWL, Carissa served as an English as a New Language teacher at Watervliet City School District. Prior to that, she taught at Schodack Central School District. The contrasting experience between the urban and rural districts has provided her with diverse point of view.

In addition to her teaching career, Carissa has been actively involved in professional development through the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center. She has provided practical and impactful professional learning sessions for teachers and presented at conferences, including NYS TESOL and the Infinity of Inclusion Conference at St. Rose.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, Carissa engages with the community as a Girl Scout Leader and in the past has served on the board of her local Parent-Teacher Organization.

Carissa Zuniga is deeply passionate about advocating for all students, with a particular focus on supporting English Language Learners. Her work reflects a commitment to educational equity and a dedication to ensuring that every student has access to high-quality learning experiences.



### **Mariana Gil, OBEWL Associate in Bilingual Education**

With eighteen years of experience in the field of Education, Dr. Mariana A. Gil has held several positions in education throughout her career that make her a valuable asset to the OBEWL team.

Professionally, Mariana honorably served diverse school communities in the Long Island region, most recently as an Interim District World Language, Business, and Technology Coordinator at Uniondale Union Free School District.

In addition, Mariana successfully served the Central Islip community, as the Bilingual, ENL, and World Languages Director. In this role, Mariana developed an expertise in classroom environment and the academic and personal advancement of English Language Learners. Mariana's field experience also includes 10 years of classroom experience as a World Language teacher at Longwood Central School District, a large suburban district on Long Island.

Mariana's academic achievements include a Doctorate in Education from St. John's University, a master's degree in Secondary Education from Dowling College and a Paralegal Science degree from Suffolk Community College. As a researcher, her area of interest is the impact of the instructional environment in both the academic success and personal advancement of ELLs.

As a Latin American immigrant, wife, and a mother of two sons, Mariana has developed her life experience and knowledge of educational leadership to provide meaningful opportunities of success for all students.





## Exploring Service, Language, Art, and History in Peru

July 3-11, 2024 brought an unforgettable adventure to a group of 16 students from West Seneca West Senior High School. The school's students have had opportunities to travel to Latin America and Europe for years, but this tour was different. Organized and led by Spanish teacher Jaclyn Pawelczak and chaperoned by colleagues Laura Low and Melissa Szykowny, this was West's first **service learning** tour. This type of trip allows for touring major cities and landmarks, but also builds in time for the students to give back to a local community. In this case, the group spent two days volunteering at a local elementary school, The Kuska



*West Seneca West Senior High School's Service Learning Trip to Peru in July 2024*

School. Kuska is located in the town of Ollantaytambo, in the Sacred Valley. "Kuska" is the Quechua word for "together." That is exactly how West's students worked to achieve the following improvements for the school: they set posts, built and painted a new fence, cleared a space for the children to plan a pollinator garden that, sanded posts of eucalyptus wood on the new pergola, dug and marked the new lines on the soccer field, and hung a new sign for the school.

In addition to their service project, the students also went sightseeing in the capital city of Lima before flying to Cusco. On their way to the Sacred Valley, they stopped to learn about and create their own Peruvian pottery at the Pablo Seminario ceramics workshop in Urubamba. The group met the artist himself, who shared where he gets inspiration to create his famous works of art. From there, the students and teachers traveled to Ollantaytambo, which was not only the location for their service project, but also the site of Incan ruins by the same name. The group was able to tour the archaeological site with their guide.

Of course, no trip to Peru would be complete without a visit to the breathtaking wonder that is Machu Picchu! The group took a train to Aguas Calientes. From there, they traveled by bus to spend an afternoon touring and learning the history of the most famous ruins of the Incan civilization. On the return trip to Cusco, the group paid a visit to the Sacsayhuaman Fortress, yet another archeological wonder built by the Incas. Later, they spent time at the colorful Pisac artisan market—a chance to get some gifts and souvenirs from this remarkable journey.

Students were given journals to record their experiences. Additionally, there were meetings throughout the tour, during which time the students were asked to verbally reflect on their learning. Group discussion included comparing and contrasting the culture of Peru with their hometown. Students shared observations and learning about the people, the food, the school, the languages, and care for the environment.

Peru 2024 was a learning experience that the West Seneca group will carry with them for life!

## **The Transforming Power of the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB)**

Beyond celebrating a student's linguistic and academic proficiency in two or more languages, the Seal of Biliteracy is transforming communities by raising an essential ingredient in student success: pride.

Three students from a diverse district in Long Island led the award ceremony led a recent celebration honoring 60 students who received the Seal of Biliteracy. These students shared the personal significance of the NYSSB with their Board of Education officers, families, and community. One student remarked, "This Seal is a celebration of the language and culture of my ancestors." Another student added, "This seal represents not only my ability to speak two or more languages but also my academic achievement."

Theorists and researchers have found that emotions of pride and achievement are key ingredients in a student's academic success and the development of lasting academic competence. In their study "Mind-sets and Perceptions of Academic Competence," Cook, Wildschut, and Thomaes assert that pride is a positive emotion that arises when an individual engages in valued behaviors or displays positive characteristics. They further found that pride, as an emotion that entails positive self-evaluation, promotes prosocial behaviors (e.g., altruism, caregiving) and achievement, and has been linked to creative thinking, task persistence, and performance.

Members of the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages recently attended the Seal of Biliteracy 2024 Summit. During this summit, our state representatives highlighted the statewide growth and success of this significant initiative. Let's join in the celebration of the transforming power of the Seal of Biliteracy, a pathway that is leading scholars, families, and communities to express the pride needed to experience academic and personal success.

## **Fall Lineup of Webinars for World Language Educators Announced**

The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) of the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is proud to announce the fall 2024 lineup of webinars for world language educators. Monthly webinars are held from 4:00-5:00pm and are recorded for on-demand viewing at a later date. Two full-day workshops will be held on November 5, 2024 from 8:30am-2:30pm. All webinars and workshops are free for NYS educators. Attendees can earn a certificate of attendance or CTLE. For more information on our webinars, please visit and bookmark our [World Languages Professional Learning website](#).

### **One-Hour Webinars**

[Interpretive Communication for Classical Languages](#) by David Pellegrino (Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 4:00-5:00pm via Zoom)



What does Interpretive Communication for Classical Languages look like in action? This session takes a deep dive into planning for and facilitating Interpretive Communication using authentic resources. Learn about before, during, and after task designs to enable learners to understand, interpret, and analyze authentic resources. You will see examples of the Interpretive mode applied to various text types at Checkpoints A, B, and C. You will come away with new insights into Standard 1 and multiple strategies for scaffolding your learners' Interpretive Communication. Click [here](#) to download the webinar flyer. Click [here](#) to register.

[Enhancing Instructional Design: Aligning Your Daily Practice with the Revised Standards](#) by Zoey Baird and Josh Wigle-Harris (Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 4:00-5:00pm via Zoom)



This webinar will provide examples of how two middle school teachers have designed practical, everyday lessons that meaningfully enact the revised NYS Learning Standards for World Languages at Checkpoint A. The presenters will demonstrate proven strategies that you can use to develop standards-based lessons for novice learners. They will share examples of sequenced learning tasks that boost learner confidence and performance in the various communication modes. They will also discuss how these approaches scaffold learner readiness for the Checkpoint A Benchmark Proficiency Assessment. Click [here](#) to download the webinar flyer.

Click [here](#) to register.

[Using Authentic Resources for Proficiency Development from Checkpoint A to Checkpoint C](#) by Amanda Silva (Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 4:00-5:00pm via Zoom)



For world language teachers, especially those who teach multiple levels, a key question is how to develop students' proficiency across grade levels and proficiency Checkpoints. In this webinar, the presenter will invite teachers to rethink the use of authentic resources as a tool for proficiency development from Checkpoint A through Checkpoint C. She will show how authentic resources, when paired with standards-based learning tasks and assessments differentiated by proficiency target, promote proficiency development. Participants will come away with strategies for using authentic resources creatively across the Checkpoints and ideas for saving time in planning. Click [here](#) to download webinar flyer. Click [here](#) to register.

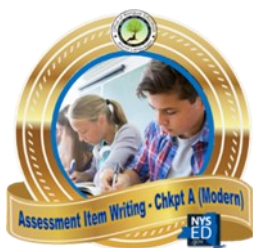
[Classical Language Lesson Planning – From Unit Plan to Lesson Plans: Putting the Pieces Together](#) by David Pellegrino (Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 4:00-5:00pm via Zoom)



In this session, participants will learn how to develop thematic unit-based lesson plans aligned to the revised Classical Language standards. The presenter will demonstrate how lesson plans can move naturally from input to output to help students make continuous progress in developing their language proficiency and requisite cultural knowledge. Click [here](#) to download the webinar flyer. Click [here](#) to register.

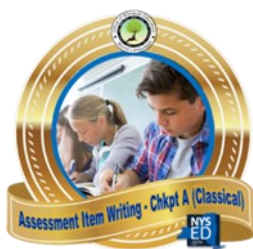
## Full-Day Workshops

[Checkpoint A Benchmark Proficiency Assessment Item Writing Workshop for Modern Languages](#) by Dr. Joanne O'Toole and Dr. Lori Langer de Ramirez (Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 8:30am-2:30pm via Zoom)

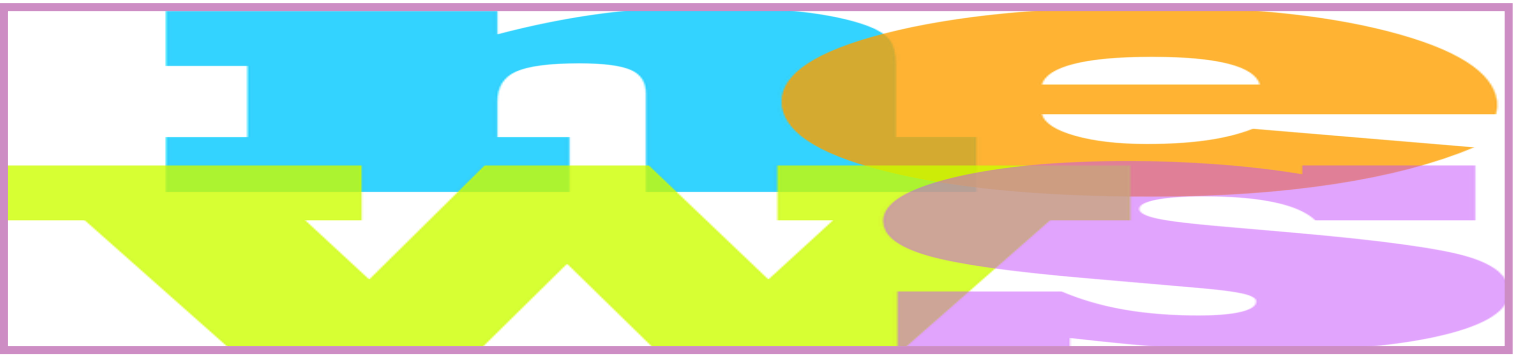


This 6-hour live virtual workshop will engage NYS world language educators in understanding and applying the Principles and Guidelines for Adopting or Creating Locally Developed Benchmark Assessments for Checkpoint A for Modern Languages. The presenters will explain and model assessment items for each Communication Standard aligned to the aforementioned guidance. Participants will have the opportunity to construct assessment items for Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational Communication at Checkpoint A that adhere to these guidelines. The workshop will run from 8:30am to 2:30pm with a one-hour lunch on your own at a time designated by the presenters. Click [here](#) to download the webinar flyer. Click [here](#) to register.

[Checkpoint A Benchmark Proficiency Assessment Item Writing Workshop for Classical Languages](#) by David Pellegrino and Bill Heller (Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 8:30am-2:30pm via Zoom)



This 6-hour live virtual workshop will engage NYS Classical Language educators in understanding and applying the Principles and Guidelines for Adopting or Creating Locally Developed Benchmark Assessments for Checkpoint A for Classical Languages. The presenters will explain and model assessment items for Communication and Culture Standards aligned to the aforementioned guidance. Participants will have the opportunity to construct assessment items for Interpretive, Presentational, and Interpersonal Communication and Culture at Checkpoint A that adhere to these guidelines. The workshop will run from 8:30am to 2:30pm with a one-hour lunch on your own at a time designated by the presenters. Click [here](#) to download the webinar flyer. Click [here](#) to register.



In these [Back to School Greetings](#), Commissioner Betty A. Rosa, Executive Deputy Commissioner Sharon Cates-Williams, Senior Deputy Commissioner Jeff Mattes, Deputy Commissioner Angelique Johnson-Dingle, Deputy Commissioner Jason Harmon, and other NYSED leaders share the exciting work being done by NYSED this year and welcome everyone back to school!

Looking for something to read? Have you checked [NOVELny](#)? Magazines, newspapers, research and reference sources, and more are available to New York State residents at no cost, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NYSED staff members are presenting a proposed regulatory amendment relating to regionalization plans. View the presentation [here](#). Additional information is available in the [Board of Regents item](#).

The New York State Museum is heading [#BacktoSchool](#)! For over 100 years, students have explored the wonders of the museum—from the “Great State Map” to the Cohoes Mastodon. Visit the NYS Museum. Use classroom [resources](#). Teachers, [plan a visit](#) for your students today.

NYSED’s Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force will hold a public hearing during the months of September and October. [Registration](#) to present oral remarks is required. Additional hearings will be held in NYC and via Zoom. Find [hearing dates and registration](#) here.

NYSED staff members are describing the process it is using for its study of the Foundation Aid formula, which is due Dec 1. Staff members are also helping to facilitate a conversation on the [2025 Budget](#) and Legislative Initiatives process.

The Board of Regents is considering [proposed regulatory amendments](#) relating to establishing the administrator certificate and extension to work as a superintendent. Public comment will begin on 9/25/24.

Establish good literacy habits this school year by [reading with your kids](#) today and throughout the year!

The new Midweek Math Mapping series dives deep into NY’s Algebra 1 course, offering hands-on learning. Kicked off in Staten Island with sessions running until 2025! #mtb [#iteachmath](#) [#mathed](#)

The NYSED [Office of Standards and Instruction](#) is accepting applications for two high school students to represent New York at the 2025 [U.S. Senate Youth Program \(USSYP\)](#). USSYP is a national nonpartisan initiative that provides talented students with demonstrated leadership the opportunity to deepen their understanding of America’s political processes and to strengthen their resolve to pursue careers in public service. Any high school junior or senior is eligible. Applicants must be actively serving in qualified leadership positions, enrolled in high school, and living in the state that they will represent for the entire 2024-2025 academic year. The two chosen NYS students will each be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship and will attend the 63rd Annual USSYP Washington Week, March 1-8, 2025. [Applications](#) must be postmarked on or before Friday, October 25, 2024, by 5:00PM.

## Need local support? Contact your local RBERN!

The RBERNs support OBEWL's mission to ensure that all students' individual educational paths and socio-economical needs are met in multiple languages leading them to college, career, and civic readiness. They are NYSED's key providers of guidance, technical assistance, and support to New York State Districts, Charter Schools, Non-public Schools, and other organizations in the development of programs for MLs.

- [New York State Language RBERN \(statewide\)](#)
- [Capital District Region RBERN at Questar III BOCES](#)
- [Hudson Valley RBERN at SW BOCES](#)
- [Long Island RBERN at Eastern Suffolk BOCES](#)
- [Mid-State RBERN at OCM BOCES](#)
- [Mid-West RBERN at Monroe 2 - Orleans BOCES](#)
- [New York City RBERN at Fordham University](#)
- [West Region RBERN at Erie 1 BOCES](#)

### Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

New York State Education Department

Albany office: 89 Washington Avenue – 301EB, Albany, NY 12234, (518) 474-8775

Batavia office: 2A Richmond Avenue, Park Lewis Hall, Batavia, NY 14020, (585) 344-2002

Brooklyn office: 55 Hanson Place, Rm 594, Brooklyn, NY 11217, (718) 722-2445

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[NYS Seal of Biliteracy website](#)



The mission of the New York State Education Department's Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages is to ensure that all New York State English Language Learners (ELLs) attain the highest level of academic success and that all Multilingual Learners (MLs) – which include ELLs, Former/Ever ELLs, World Languages students, and heritage speakers of World Languages – achieve the highest level of language proficiency in English and in one or more other languages.

