



New York State
Seal of Biliteracy
(NYSSB)



The NYSSB for Culminating Project Advisors

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.

What is the role of an advisor and who can serve in this capacity?

Every student completing a Culminating Project in English and/or a world language will work with an advisor. This advisor can be the student's classroom teacher, a district staff member, or an adult community member. The advisor's role is to guide the student through the NYSSB process and provide valuable feedback on the Culminating Project. The advisor should go over the requirements for the program and meet regularly with the student over the course of the year to review progress. It is recommended that the advisor keep a record throughout the year that details activities relating to work being done for the NYSSB. Resources for advisors are available in Module 4 of the [NYSSB Guidance Toolkit](#).

Must the advisor speak the language(s) in which the student is pursuing the NYSSB?

Advisors of the English Culminating Project must be proficient in English. The most qualified advisors of a world language project will be proficient in the language of the student's project, so as to provide linguistic and cultural guidance for the project. For this reason, schools should make every effort to find such an advisor. However, it is not mandatory for the advisor to know the language spoken by the student, if one cannot be found. Schools that do not have staff members that speak the language of the student's project are encouraged to reach out to their local Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), their [Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network \(RBERN\)](#), local colleges and universities, and community-based organizations for assistance. Click here for [NYSED's Guide to Community-Based Organizations for Immigrants](#) by region.

Where can I find more information on the NYSSB?

The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) maintain a variety of resources for advisors, including rubrics for the Culminating Projects that can be used for English and world languages and the [NYSSB Guidance Toolkit](#), which contains a series of self-guiding modules. Of particular interest to advisors are [Module 3: Designing the Culminating Project and Promoting the NYSSB Program](#) and [Module 5: Preparing for Panel Presentations](#).

For more information on the NYSSB, please contact the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages via email (nyssb@nysed.gov) or phone (518.473.7505) or visit our website: <http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb>.



Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue, 505EB
Albany, NY 12234



New York State
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