The Road to the SEAL of BILITERACY
More languages mean better college and career opportunities

Preparing English Language Learners for College & Careers
Fordham University –Rose Hill
August 30, 2107

Roser Salavert, Ed.D.
NYC RBE-RN @ Fordham University
What is the New York State Seal of Biliteracy?

- The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) is a formal recognition of a student’s proficiency and achievement in English and one or more languages other than English (LOTE).

- It can take the form of a seal that appears on the students diploma as well as a notation on the official transcript.
Why offer the Seal of Biliteracy?

• To encourage students to study languages
• To recognize the value of language diversity
• To provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and skills
• To provide universities with a method to recognize and give credit to applicants for attainment of high level skills in multiple languages
• To prepare students with 21st century skills
• To honor the multiple cultures and languages in a community
We extend our congratulations to the French/English graduates from Crotona International High School, the Mandarin-English graduates from Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, and all the other students who are graduating with The NYS Seal of Biliteracy in June 2017.

Congratulations!

Lehman Graduates who have earned the NYS Seal of Biliteracy
- Axel Batista (Spanish)
- Jasmiry Encarnacion (Spanish)
- Carlos Grullon (Spanish)
- Edwin Lopez Torres (Spanish)
- Nelson Molina (Spanish)
- Alexa Nunez (Spanish)
- Emily Romero (Spanish)

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What did the students do to earn the Seal of Biliteracy?

Excerpts from my conversation with Ms. Herrera, a FL teacher at Lehman High School:

Elizabeth Herrera (EH). Implementing the Program for my AP students was fairly simple, much of the work they do in the course corresponds directly to the requirements from the State to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy. I found that providing the students with this option was the best way to motivate them to work harder. They finally saw a reliable and accountable reason for them to continue to pursue their studies in a foreign language. The Program validated what they already knew: that knowing more than one language was an advantage and a tool for success in their future.

Roser Salavert (RS). Your students were already in their senior year when they first learned of the possibility of graduating with the NYS Seal of Biliteracy in June. How did you motivate them to pursue the Seal?
How can the school increase the number of students who graduate with the NYSSB?

RS. Based on the experience of this first year of the program, how do you plan to prepare your students next year?

EH. This was our pilot year, and even though I considered it quite successful there are a few things I will take into consideration for the upcoming year. First, I would like to take the opportunity to meet the guidance counselors before the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year to future candidates for the NYSSB program. Next,...

(see full article in the NYC RBE-RN Newsletter)
How Can Students Earn the NYS Seal of Biliteracy?

- Students must demonstrate proficiency in English and in a World Language. They can demonstrate this proficiency in different ways.

How do Students demonstrate proficiency?

- The NYS Department of Education has listed several criteria and assigned one (1) point value to each. Students must earn 3 points in each language, but they can choose from the menu of options how to earn these points (See student flyer).
### What are the options to demonstrate proficiency in English?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score 75 or higher on the English Regents, or score 80 or higher on the English Regents Common Core</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieve 3 or higher on an AP English Language or English Literature exam.</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete all 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; and 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade ELA courses with an average of 85 or higher.</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
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**If you are learning English (ELL), you also have these options:**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Score 75 or higher on two Regents exams other than English, without translation</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score at Commanding level on two modalities on the NYSESLAT.</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score 80 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
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And all of you have also an option of earning Two (2) points if present a culminating project, essay or portfolio that responds to criteria set by the school district represented by a panel of reviewers.  

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What are the options to demonstrate proficiency in a World Language?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score with a grade of 85 or higher a World Language course (a score comparable to Checkpoint C – Intermediate High).</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score at a proficient level on a World Language Assessment (a score comparable to Checkpoint C – Intermediate High).</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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If you are learning English (ELL), you also have these options:

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<tr>
<td>Score 85 or higher on all required Home Language Exams in a Bilingual program (a score comparable to Checkpoint C – Intermediate High).</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide transcripts from a school in a foreign country showing at least three years of instruction in the student’s home language in Grade 8 or beyond, with an equivalent grade average of B or higher.</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And all of you have also an option of earning **Two (2) points if present a culminating project, essay or portfolio** that responds to the **Intermediate High Level** of proficiency (ACTFL Guidelines) | 2 points |
Projects, essays, portfolios and rubrics

• Under the guidance of the Seal of Biliteracy Committee (SBC) of the school, students will develop projects, essays and/or portfolios which will allow them to demonstrate their proficiency in a language at the Intermediate High level required by the NYSSB. Evaluation rubrics must also be developed to help guide and assess student work.

Q: Who should be on the SBC?
A: The SBC should be comprised of, but not limited to, the following personnel: a World Language teacher, an English Language Arts (ELA) teacher, an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher, a guidance counselor, and an administrator.
The Critical Role of Guidance Counselors

Where to begin? How to decide?

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Bilingual Programs
(Source: Glossary – NYS Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages)

• **Transitional Bilingual Education Programs** model uses the students home language to help ELL students progress academically while they are learning English.

• **Dual Language Programs (Two-Way)** model includes both ELLs and English speaking students in the program.

**Silkia Melendez (SM).** *This first year of the Dual Language program has been one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done. I am very impressed with the progress students made. Hearing English dominant students speak, write and read in Spanish has made this year a success.*

Ms. Melendez, Ms. Torres
The Critical Role of Guidance Counselors: Promote a College & Career Oriented School Environment

Language Learning Programs

- International Baccalaureate
- Foreign Language in the Elementary and Middle schools.
- High School Foreign Language Courses

Enrichment Opportunities

- After school language immersion programs.
- Music, theatre and dance programs that engage students in the arts of a different culture while immersing them into the language and culture.
Critical Role of Guidance Counselors: Instill higher Aspirations based on your Knowledge of the Job Market

Top 100 Companies for Bilingual Jobs

Welcome to the free List of Best Companies for Flexible Bilingual jobs! Based on years of researching companies that hire for telecommuting, part-time, flextime, or freelance jobs, Flexjobs has compiled and made public a list of 100 of companies that specifically have hired for Bilingual jobs with at least one of these flexible working options. Below you will find the company profiles on employers such as Nielsen, excelHR, and Nu Skin, as well as each company’s telecommuting, part-time, freelance, and flexible job posting history, a staff-written description, and the company’s headquarters and website.

The purpose of the free List of Best Companies for Flexible Bilingual Jobs is to help people interested in Bilingual jobs to easily find and research legitimate employers that are known to hire for jobs with some type of flexibility, such as telecommuting, part-time, flexible, and freelance options. We hope you find some great company profiles that interest you!

Search the List of Flexible Companies by: Bilingual Jobs or By Location

Location of the Best 100 Companies for Flexible Bilingual Jobs
The Critical Role of Guidance Counselors: Encourage & Support ELL Students to Earn the NYS Seal of Biliteracy

**THE SEAL OF BILITERACY** is for students with English as a home language, and for students who learn English as a new language.

**THE SEAL OF BILITERACY** is an award that becomes part of the student’s official transcript, and it takes the form of a gold seal that appears on the diploma of the senior graduating from high school.

*Reminder*: The goal of a NYSSB is consistent with the Regents Reform Agenda of ensuring that all New York State students graduate college- and career-ready.
Suggested list:

1. Identify students *(Fall 2017)*
2. Inform the NYS of intent *(Early 2018)*
3. Collaborate with FL and ELA teachers
4. Be part of the Seal of Biliteracy School committee.
5. Ensure that the Seal is in the official student transcripts
The Road
to the
SEAL of BILITERACY
More languages mean
better career, college and job opportunities

For more information, please contact us at:
nycbern@Fordham.edu

Thank you, Roser Salavert