



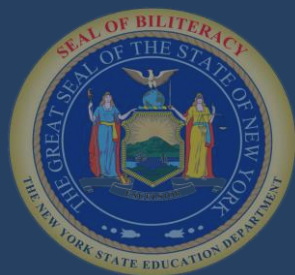
New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) & Indigenous Languages Support

September 2024

Board of Regents



The New York State Seal of Biliteracy AWARD NIGHT

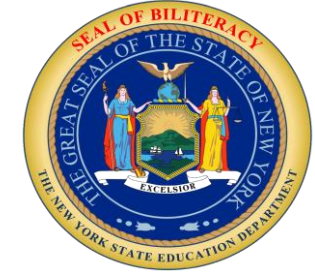
NYS Seal of Biliteracy

Seal of Biliteracy Award

- Recognizes high proficiency in two or more world languages.
- Must be English-speaking by high school graduation.

A multilingual and multiliterate population has the potential to:

- enhance academic achievement;
- advance intercultural competencies;
- boost economic competitiveness;
- improve intergroup relations;
- strengthen national security; and
- leverage inequities in societies.



NYSSB Student Voices



Olivia Perretto,
White Plains CSD



Thomas Willis,
Cicero-North Syracuse CSD



Helena Kottman,
Haldane CSD



Timothy Williams,
Silver Creek CSD
Seneca Nation





History was made in 2024

In 2024, Haldane High School senior, Helena Kottman, made history as the first student to earn the NYSSB in five world languages in addition to English: Japanese, Italian, German, Spanish, and French.

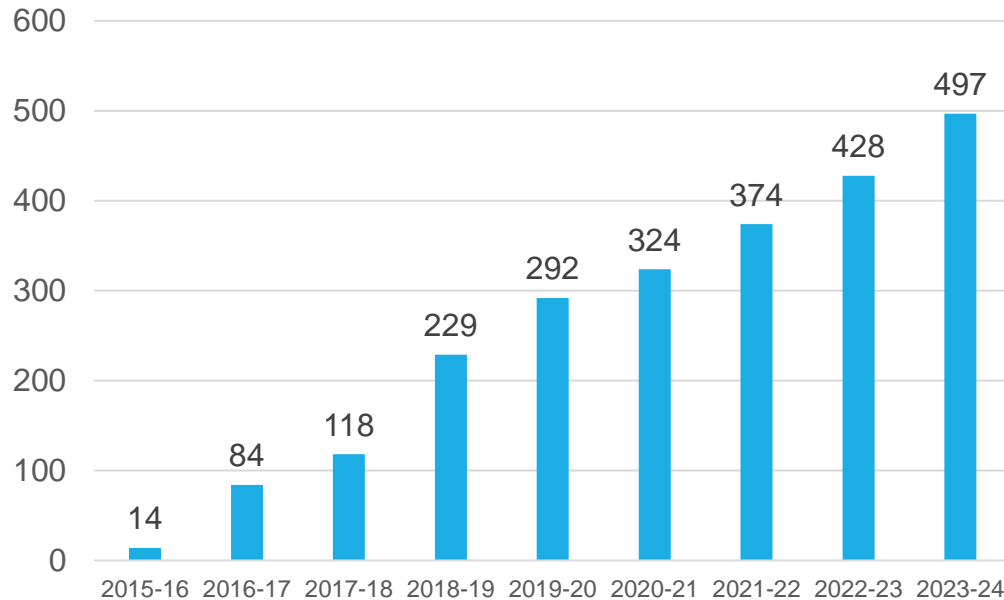
Five-time NYSSB earner



2024: A Historic Year for the Seal of Biliteracy

For the first time in U.S. history, all 50 states plus the District of Columbia have a state Seal of Biliteracy program

Number of total schools awarding the Seal (2016-2024)



(A 16% increase in the number of schools from the prior year)

>10,600

students earned the NYSSB

(a 22% increase in the number of students from the prior year)

New York State Seal of Biliteracy Earners:

27.5% are currently or previously identified as English Language Learners (ELLs).

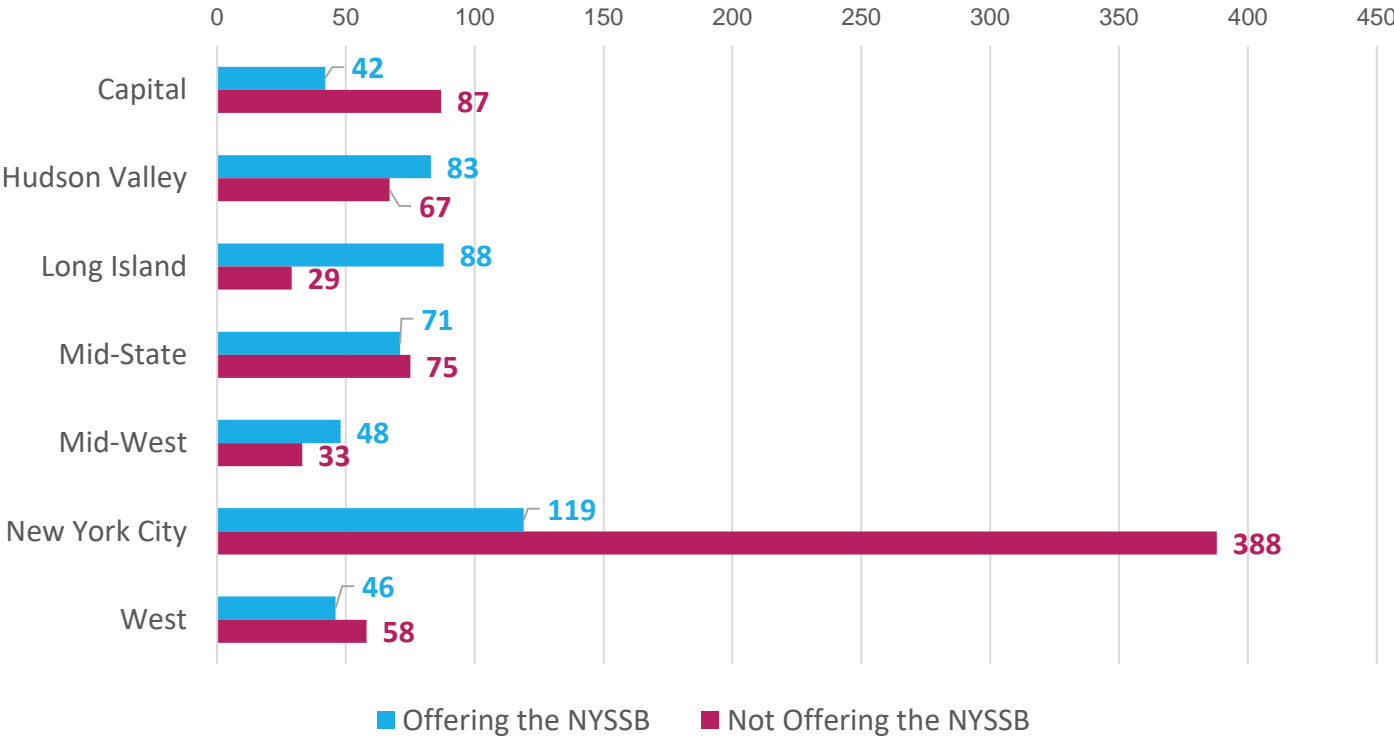
18% are Never ELLs whose home language is a language other than English.

54.4% are Never ELLs whose home language is English.



Recruiting More Schools

Number of Schools Offering vs. Not Offering the NYSSB by Region (2023-24)





Indigenous Languages Initiative



The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) worked with an Indigenous Language Standards Committee to inform the NYS Learning Standards for World Languages adopted in 2021.

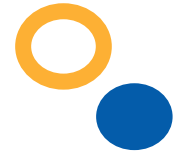
- OBEWL issued allocations of over \$850,000 over the last three years.
- OBEWL visited multiple districts that offer Indigenous Language programs to build relationships and meet with district personnel of NYS schools that offer Indigenous Language programs and representatives of Indigenous Nations.

The Indigenous Languages Initiative:

- Supports the annual Native American Indian Education Association of NY gathering;
- Collaborates with NYSED's Indigenous Education Office; and
- Formed and is working with an Indigenous Language Steering Committee in (2024).



Earning the NYSSB in Indigenous Languages



Lucille Jimerson and **Timothy Williams** are the first students in NYS history to earn the NYSSB in the Seneca language.

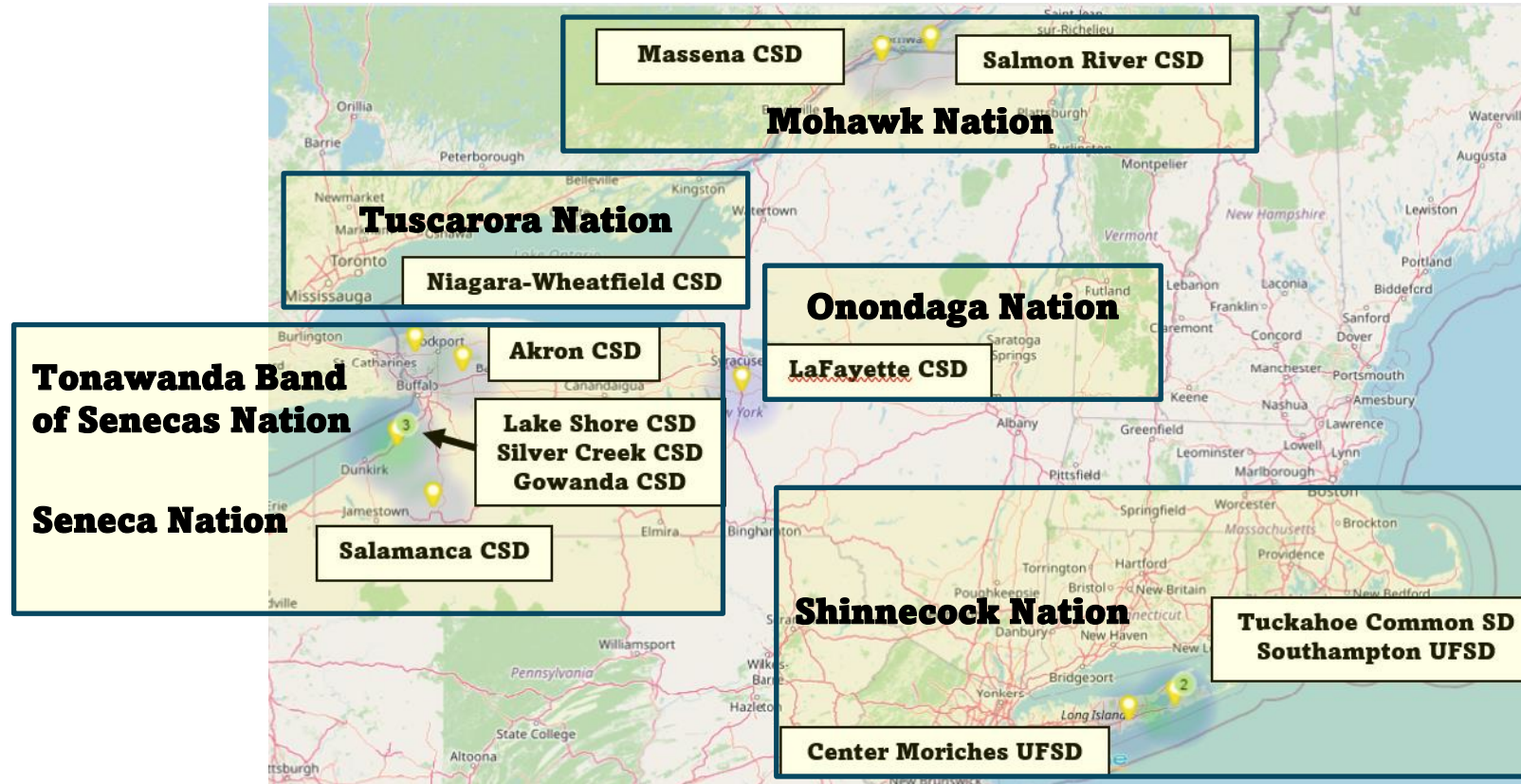
“Generational trauma has caused a decrease in people willing to learn the Seneca language, and seeing this has motivated me. Having the opportunity to learn Seneca at my school is a privilege...” ~ Lucille Jimerson

“Earning the NYSSB is a symbol of resilience. It wasn’t too long ago that the U.S. government tried to do away with my people, culture, and language...I did it to show my peers, elders, and community that it can be done, and that there is hope for our language.” ~ Timothy Williams

Indigenous Languages Steering Committee



Indigenous Language Allocations



There are currently **12** NYS public school districts that have Indigenous Language programs.

Thank you for supporting the NYS Seal of Biliteracy and Indigenous Language programs throughout our state.

