



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the benefits of learning a world language are immeasurable, and New York State supports opportunities for students to become bilingual/multilingual and multicultural, with most school districts in New York State currently offering academic programs of world language study; and

**Whereas**, research indicates that early language study has been shown to strengthen students' performance in their first language as well as in other content areas; beginning language study early and continuing studies through extended instructional sequences affords students additional cognitive and mental benefits, including mental flexibility and creativity; and

**Whereas**, for students, the early study of world languages and culture advances the goal of communication through listening, speaking, reading and writing, and addresses the five components of learning a language; Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparisons and Communities; and

**Whereas**, in 2018, National Foreign Language Week continues its nationwide campaign to raise awareness of the value and importance of world language study, and continues to highlight programs that encourage America's youth to broaden their horizons and scope of understanding and communication with people of other nations and cultures; and

**Whereas**, the study of a world language fosters an appreciation of others cultures as well as one's own language and culture, improves performance in other content areas, and cultivates students' growth into adults with proficiency in world languages and cross-cultural awareness, as, in order to maintain a competitive edge in career and business opportunities, individuals who make up our work force need strong language skills to interact with the rest of the world in matters of commerce, diplomacy, science, and cultural exchange; and

**Whereas**, as a center of the global economy, New York is home to major corporations, financial institutions, and world-class resources for education, science, technology, and culture, and proficiency in world languages and greater cross-cultural awareness can benefit students in college and their future careers; and

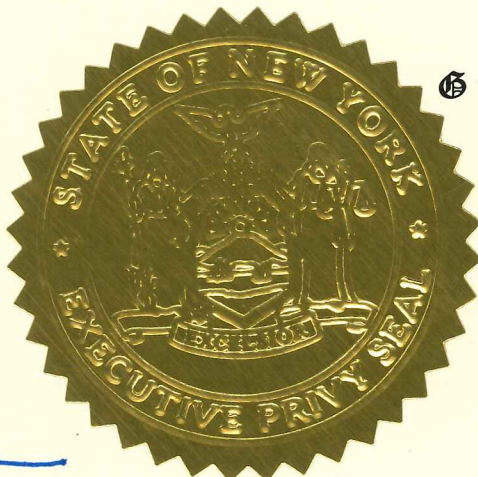
**Whereas**, in 2012, New York became the second state in the nation to enact legislation establishing the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) which recognizes high school graduates who demonstrate excellence in attaining proficiency in one or more languages other than English; the NYSSB encourages the study of languages, identifies high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers, provides universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission, prepares students with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, highlights the value of world and native language instruction in schools, and affirms the value of diversity in a multilingual society; and

**Whereas**, the world language classroom is where language and culture intersect, and students gain new levels of appreciation and an enhanced perspective of our diverse global society; New York State recognizes the value and importance of linguistic studies, and commends teachers and students of world languages who bridge cultural boundaries by learning to speak, understand, read, and write in other languages;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 5-11, 2018 as

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-first  
day of February in the year two thousand eighteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor  
Melissa DeRosa