



WORLD LANGUAGES INCREASE STUDENTS' PROSPECTS



CRITICAL NEED FOR A MULTILINGUAL WORKFORCE

- 9 out of 10 US based employers rely on language proficiency other than English for their employee base.
- 65 million US residents speak a language other than English.
- Graduates with a high level of proficiency in a language other than English increase their chances for employment and typically earn more than their English-only competitors.
- 56% of companies report that their demand for multilingual skills will increase over the next five years.



NYS MULTILINGUAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

- NYS businesses are diversifying and globalizing their operations, requiring language and culture skills to access global markets and serve the multilingual population within the state.



FEDERAL FUNDING SUPPORTS WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

- The World Language Advancement and Readiness Grant Program (WLARA) allotted \$15 million to support WL programs in Department of Defense Education Activity schools (10% or greater military-connected student enrollment) and/or schools with JROTC programs.
- Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching Act (BEST Act) supports equitable implementation of WL programs, offering **every** student in America the opportunity to achieve a Seal of Biliteracy.
- The bipartisan, bicameral caucus, America's Language Caucus, was formed "to raise awareness about the importance of world language learning and international education, particularly as it relates to our nation's economic and national security...[and] Ensure adequate resources are directed towards the study of world language learning."



NYS WORLD LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- Students must complete at least 2 units of study in a WL at some time during grades K-9.
- Unit of study requirements in a WL may be in more than one language, provided that at least one half of the required units of study shall be in a single language and be offered in segments of not less than a half unit of study per school year.
- To earn a Regents diploma students must successfully complete 1 unit of credit in a WL **and** pass a locally developed Checkpoint A exam.
- A Regents diploma with Advanced Designation can be earned with 2 additional units of credit **and** passing a locally developed Checkpoint B exam.

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MEETING WORLD LANGUAGE NEEDS IN NYS



OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS TO MEET WORLD LANGUAGE DEMANDS

3 units of WL credit are rarely sufficient for students to reach the level of proficiency required for college & career.

- Passing Checkpoint B courses **plus** a Checkpoint B assessment enables students to complete a World Language (WL) 4 + 1 Pathway to Graduation.

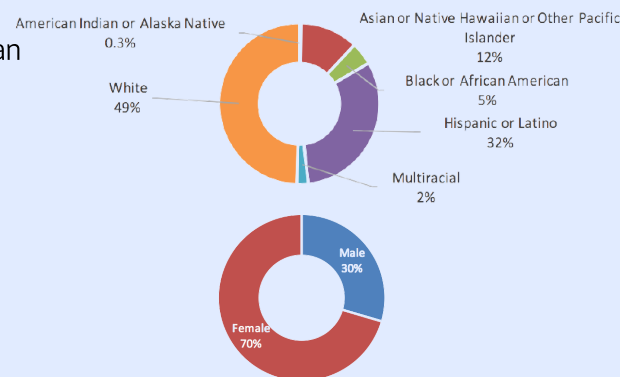


- Checkpoint C courses enable students to demonstrate higher levels of language skills and increased cultural mindfulness to better meet the demands of the 21st century.
- The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) "recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. The intent is to encourage the study of languages, to identify high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers, to provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission and placement, to prepare students with twenty-first century skills, to recognize the value of language instruction, and to affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society."



PROMOTE WORLD LANGUAGE TO ALL STUDENTS

- In 2019-20, there were 256,736 MLL/ELLs in NYS. The NYSSB enables ELLs to earn the seal in their home language(s) as well as in English.
- The NYS Parent Teachers Association (PTA) recognizes the need for early WL education so that "all children can have an equal opportunity develop to their fullest potential."
- The NYSED Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages' 2019-2020 Annual Report revealed that Black/African American students are not continuing their WL course of study and only 5% earn the Seal, even though 12% of seniors in schools offering the Seal were Black/African American.
- In 2019-20, only 30% of males (of any race or ethnicity) earned the NYSSB. 70% of all Seal earners were female.



KEY ACTION STEPS

- Encourage **all** students to continue WL study beyond the basic requirements. Students' applications will become more desirable when seeking college admission and more competitive in domestic and international marketplaces.
- Promote participation in the NYS Seal of Biliteracy program. Refer to the NYSSB Guidance Toolkit to implement or expand a program.
- Focus on promoting the NYSSB to Black/African American students and all male students. They deserve increased opportunities for improved marketability and earning power.
- Implement and support a Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) program so students can achieve the proficiency levels and cultural awareness needed to succeed in our globalized world.