

Niagara Falls City School District

4455 Porter Road, Niagara Falls, New York 14305

NYSED Seal of Biliteracy Information NYSSB

What is the New York State Seal of Biliteracy?

The Seal of Biliteracy is a formal recognition of students who have studied and attained a high proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The high school diploma will have the seal will be placed onto it.

What is the goal of the Seal of Biliteracy?

- Highlight the achievement of multilingual students
- Prepare students with twenty-first century skills
- Recognize the value of world and home language instruction in our schools
- Identify high school graduates with language and Biliteracy skills for employers or universities

Who can participate?

The program will be available to Niagara Falls High School seniors only however, we will not exclude underclassmen's attempts of the criteria. The intention of the NYSSB is for **all students** who demonstrate a high intermediate proficiency in English and any other language, including American Sign Language. (A language does not have to be part of the Niagara Falls High School World Language program to be eligible.)

How does an interested student earn the seal?

1. Submit an application to guidance. Forms are on the Niagara Falls High School website on the [Seal of Biliteracy Application](#).
2. The NYSSB Committee contacts the student in order to review the criteria and set up a pathway to obtain the seal.

What are the pathways to achieving the seal?

There are different ways a student can attain the seal. New York State determines the outlines of the pathways. The Niagara Falls High School Seal of Biliteracy Committee (NFSBC) has the task of implementing and approving a student's achievement of the seal of Biliteracy. See website for Niagara Falls High School for the [Seal of Biliteracy Checklist](#).

Who decides if a student earns the Seal of Biliteracy?

The Niagara Falls High School Seal of Biliteracy Committee (NFSBC) made up of World Language teachers, English Language Arts teachers, English as a New Language teachers, guidance counselors and administrators. After a student has completed the requirements, a minimum of two committee members will evaluate their work, following the criteria set by NYSED. If a student has chosen to do a portfolio as part of their pathway, the student will have an interview in the chosen language. A panel of judges selected by the NYSSB committee will measure the interpersonal and presentation skills of the student.

