



# 2021 School Counselors' Virtual Conference

## THE STATE SEAL OF BILINGUALISM- BILITERACY

**KADRIYE EL-ATWANI**  
**LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DIVISION**  
**NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

Session Time: 2:00 P.M.



# Kadriye El-Atwani, PhD.

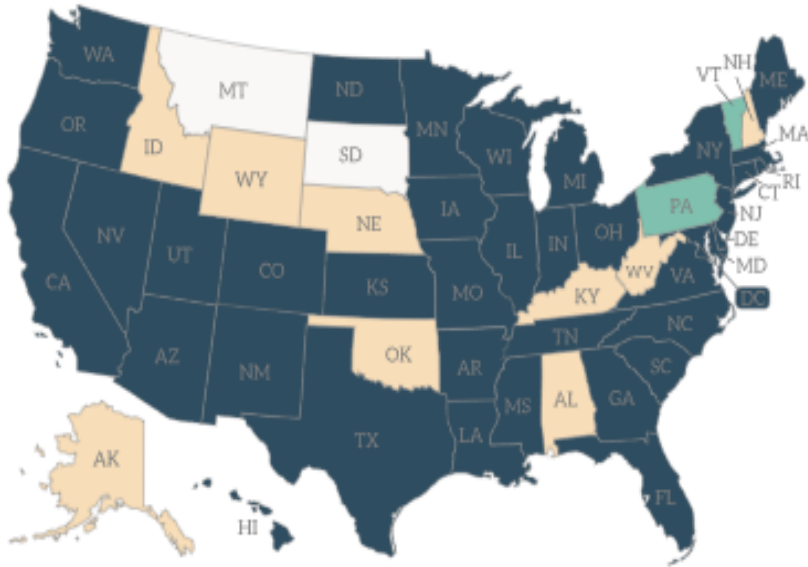


I earned my B.S in Elementary Mathematics Education with a minor in Science Education from the Middle East Technical University in Turkey. After teaching in private and public school settings in Turkey, I came to the U.S. to pursue my graduate degree in the area of multicultural education. My dissertation research was an example of comprehensive comparative case study with a focus in developing multicultural education curricula in minority schools in the U.S. In fact, one of the research sites in my study was in Albuquerque, NM. In my current position as the Equity Specialist at the New Mexico Public Education Department, I work to build capacity in culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy by collaborating with the educators in New Mexico to transform the school environments into learning environments that prepare *all* students to be college and career ready and secure their identity, community, and life. I carry multicultural passion through my professional and personal life. I am raising my two children proudly in a trilingual home.

# The Capstone – The State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy

## State Laws Regarding the Seal of Biliteracy

● Approved State Seal   ● Under Consideration   ● Early Stages   ● No Seal of Biliteracy, Yet!



Objective: 6.32.2 NMAC establishes the criteria for students to earn a state seal of bilingualism-biliteracy on a New Mexico diploma of excellence. The state seal of bilingualism-biliteracy certifies that the recipient is proficient for meaningful use in college, a career, or to meet a local community language need in a language other than English.

# The SSBB Rationale

- Developing proficiency in two or more languages
- Truly making NM an “English-Plus” state in policy and practice
- Meeting the demands of local communities in NM in cultural revitalization, language, identity, and heritage
- Preparing students in NM with cross-cultural competency skills in 21<sup>st</sup> century’s global era
- Promoting bilingualism-biliteracy as a real asset in the work place

Resource:

[Benefits of Multilingualism Infographic \(ed.gov\)](#)

# The SSBB Timeline

September 15, 2015

The Rule was published for the implementation of the State Seal of Bilingualism and Biliteracy on the Diploma of Excellence

In SY 2016-2017, 490 high school students in 18 public school districts and two charter schools received the SSBB

In SY 2018-2019, 878 high school students in 22 public school districts and two charter schools received the SSBB

3,310 High School students received the SSBB since SY 2015-2016.

Sep. 2014- Dec. 2014  
The taskforce had several meetings and submitted a final proposal to the PED

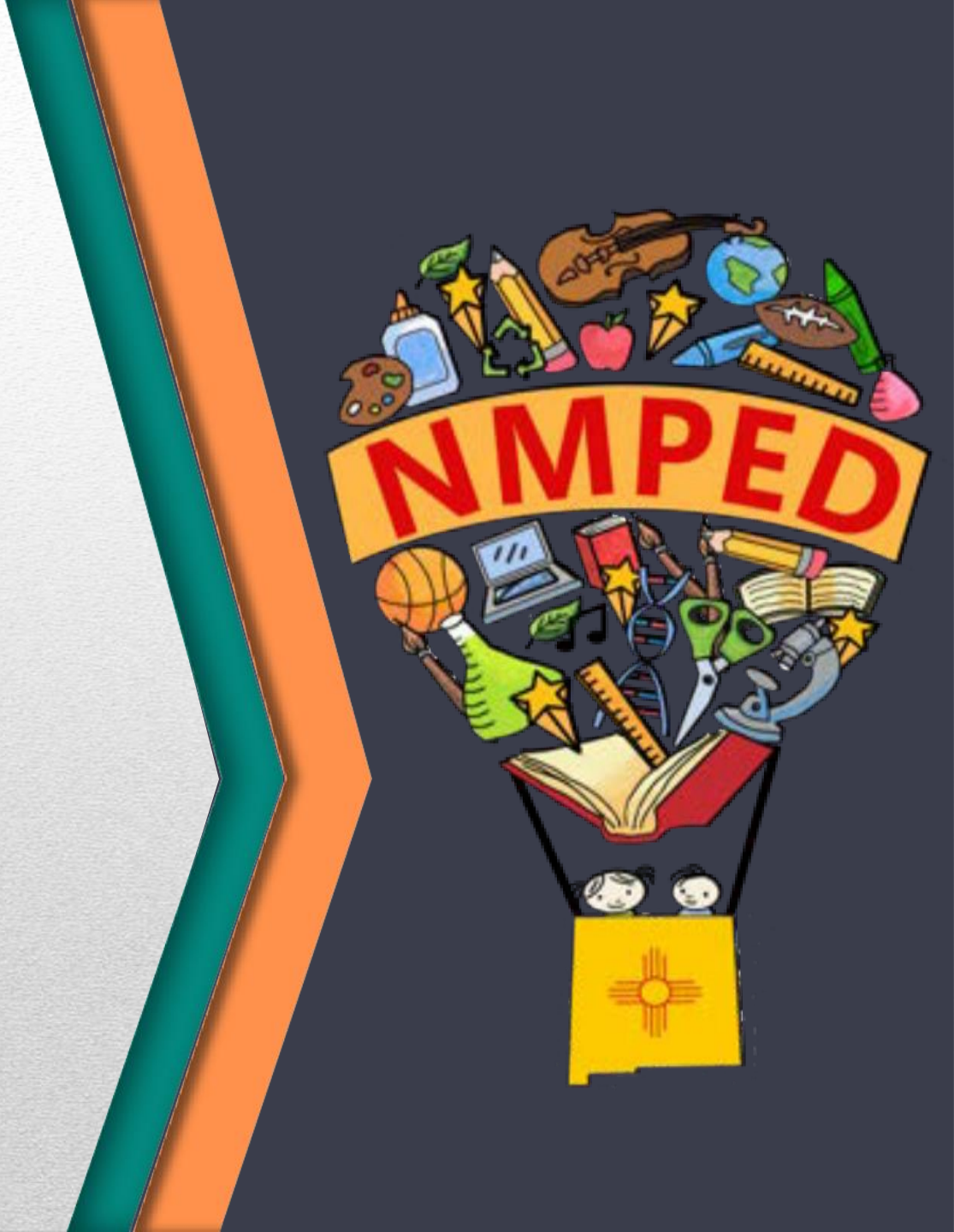
In SY 2015-2016, 156 high school students in 11 public school districts and one charter school received the SSBB

In SY 2017-2018, 681 high school students in 19 public school districts and two charter schools received the SSBB

In SY 2019-2020, 1,105 high school students in 25 public school districts and four charter schools received the SSBB



The SSBB has been awarded in:  
*American Sign Language, Arabic,  
Chinese, Czech, French, German,  
Italian, Japanese, Keres, Korean,  
Latin, Navajo, Portuguese,  
Spanish, Somali, Tagalog, Tewa,  
Tiwa, Turkish, Vietnamese and  
Zuni* since SY 2015-2016.



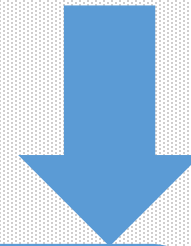
# The SSBB Options

## OPTION 1: Tribal Language Proficiency Certification

Tribes determines  
language proficiency  
criteria, process, and  
procedure



Student meets  
graduation requirements  
and the requirements set  
by the Tribe



District/school receives  
proficiency certification  
from the Tribe



Student  
receives  
Diploma of  
Excellence  
with the  
SSBB



# The SSBB Options

## OPTION 2: Units of Credit & Assessment

Student takes and passes (C or higher) 4 units of credit in a language other than English

Student takes and passes the approved assessment in a language other than English



Student receives Diploma of Excellence with the SSBB

Student meets the NM Graduation Requirements



# The SSBB Options

## OPTION 3: Units of Credit & Alternative Process Portfolio

Student takes and passes (C or higher) 4 units of credit in a language other than English

Student successfully delivers a presentation, participates in an interview panel, and produces a work sample; all in a language other than English

Student meets the NM Graduation Requirements

Student receives Diploma of Excellence with the SSBB



# The SSBB Options

## OPTION 4: Assessment & Alternative Process Portfolio

Student takes and passes the approved assessment in a language other than English

Student successfully delivers a presentation, participates in an interview panel, and produces a work sample; all in a language other than English

Student meets the NM Graduation Requirements

Student receives Diploma of Excellence with the SSBB



# Engaging Students and Families in the SSBB

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- General Information about the State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy
- Continuous knowledge construction in all options and it's implementation in the school/district and tribe
- Instantiate education as decolonized – meaningful educational practice out of students' languages, cultures, community-based identities
- Build up a strong family-school relationship
- Community-anchored standpoint
- Validate, affirm and build upon the cultural and linguistic heritage of ALL students

# Examples of Common Misconceptions about the SSBB

- The SSBB implementation is only for the state-funded Bilingual Multicultural Education Programs (BMEPs)- *Not true, the SSBB can be adopted and implemented regardless of BMEPs.*
- High schools students can demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English with any kind of language assessment to receive the SSBB on the Diploma of Excellence - *Not true, the assessment must be recognized as valid by NMPED.*
- Locally authorized charter schools request the SSBB image from their districts- *Not true. Locally authorized charter schools must request the SSBB image from the LCD.*

# Resources

## State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy (SSBB) – New Mexico Public Education Department

### THE STATE SEAL OF BILINGUALISM-BILITERACY: A Capstone of Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Education

In the 21st century, the world economy is increasingly global and multicultural, which requires the workforce of the future to have linguistic and cultural competence. Thus, bilingualism and biliteracy enhance future employees' "human capital" (the measure of the economic value of a person's skill set) by providing linguistic and cross-cultural skills in the global job market (Language Magazine, 2018). For instance, over the past five years, the demand for bilingual workers in the United States has more than doubled (Not Lost in Translation, 2017).

The State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy (SSBB) does not only prepare New Mexico students to be global citizens and meet local students' needs but more importantly, honors New Mexico's heritage and the heritage languages of the State. The SSBB is the capstone education that the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) envisions for NM Students.



The SSBB state regulation was published in September 2015; it set the adoption criteria for school districts and state charter schools to award the SSBB for their high school graduates. To earn the SSBB, students must meet the graduation requirements and demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English, through one of the following options: 3- language certification by an individual Tribe, 2-units of credit and an assessment, 3-units of credit and an alternative process portfolio; or 4-an assessment and an alternative process portfolio.

Across NM, around 3,305 high school graduates received the State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy since 2015 in a variety of languages.

Since the State of New Mexico adopted the SSBB in 2015, 25 school districts and four (4) state charter schools have adopted the SSBB. Within this time frame, around 3,280 students have received a diploma of excellence with the SSBB. In 2019-2020, 1,100 students graduated with the SSBB by attaining proficiency in a variety of languages. The data reported to NMPEP between 2016 and 2020 details that high school graduates attained the state seal in *American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Navajo, Portuguese, Spanish, Czech, French, Teow, Tewa, Turkish, Vietnamese and Zuni*. Reflecting on the data, districts and charter schools that awarded the SSBB have recognized their students for being fluent in a language other than English and importantly exemplified the practices of *culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and learning environments that validate, affirm, build and bridge their students' culture and language*. To ensure that all students are secure in their identity and holistically prepared for college, career and life, the Language and Culture Division at NMPEP will continue to highlight the importance of the SSBB and provide guidance to districts and charter schools.

The data for the SSBB is periodically updated, please see the link below for the latest data: [https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/19-20\\_Bilingual-Seal-Awarded-Tracking-Log.pdf](https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/19-20_Bilingual-Seal-Awarded-Tracking-Log.pdf). To receive more information about the SSBB adoption and implementation practices, please review the non-regulatory guidance handbook at <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-Seal-Handbook-Final-11-9-18.pdf>. As we move towards reopening schools for 2020-2021 academic year, it is critically important to plan how seniors intending to earn the SSBB will be able to complete all requirements to earn the SSBB by the end of the school year. For further information, please see the link below to review the supporting document for SSBB during SY 2020-2021: [https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NMPEP\\_SupportDoc\\_IL-BMPE-SSBB.pdf](https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NMPEP_SupportDoc_IL-BMPE-SSBB.pdf).

State of New Mexico  
Diploma of Excellence  
Bilingualism and Biliteracy Seal



Guidance Handbook  
2015-2016



Kadriye(Kad) El-Atwani, PhD  
Language and Culture Division - NMPED  
[Kadriye.el-atwani@state.nm.us](mailto:Kadriye.el-atwani@state.nm.us)

**Thank You!**