



## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION

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Assemblywoman Carmen E. Arroyo  
Legislative Office Building 734  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Arroyo:

On behalf of the Executive Board, Delegate Assembly, Executive Director, and members of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE), I am writing to express our full support for the passing of legislation that would create a Seal of Biliteracy and would honor the achievement of the students of New York State.

Our mission statement affirms that NYSABE “is a multilingual and multicultural association fostering the awareness and appreciation of bilingualism and biculturalism as an integral part of cultural pluralism in our society.” Within this framework, NYSABE’s goals are:

- To encourage the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of quality programs in Bilingual Education
- To promote Bilingual Education as an educational process by which the success of students is enhanced through instruction in their native language and English
- To foster the recognition by the total community of the importance of bilingualism and its contribution toward a better understanding of the cultural and linguistic differences among people.

In this connection, the New York State Seal of Biliteracy and NYSABE’s mission concur in their recognition of the importance of language development, bilingualism, and biliteracy as well as linguistic and cultural diversity among New York State students. By honoring students who have attained proficiency levels in literacy in two or more languages, the Seal of Biliteracy reaffirms NYSABE’s vision, to prepare students for success in the academic realm and aims at ensuring their participation in the globalized economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In closing, NYSABE applauds your commitment to the education of bilingual learners and your unflinching support to the work of educators, parents, and community members whom NYSABE represents.

Sincerely,

*Maria-Angelica Meyer*

María-Angélica Meyer  
NYSABE President