

## RPJSHS Seniors Recognized for High Level of Bilingual Proficiency

During the 216<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, Governor Christie signed A-4415/S-3279 (Diegnan, Garcia, Pinkin/Turner, Ruiz) which establishes the State Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of bilingual proficiency.

Appearing on a certificate, the Seal of Biliteracy is a statement of accomplishment for gaining competency in two or more languages and is viewed as an asset when applying for a job or for college admission. This also allows students from diverse backgrounds to be recognized for the inherent value of their native language as well as the added value of another language acquired.

During the 2014-15 school year, Ridgefield Park Junior-Senior High School joined the Seal of Biliteracy program. Three graduating students in the Class of 2015 were awarded this distinction based on their AP Spanish scores and English proficiency as measured by state assessment. For 2016, there are 8 graduating seniors who will have earned this honor and designation.

In the future, the World Languages department hopes to expand the number of students earning this honor by offering the option for alternative language assessments, demonstrating our district's commitment to linguistic and cultural excellence, and the development of global citizens.