



Seal of Civic
Readiness

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The New York State Seal of Civic Readiness (NYSSCR) is a formal recognition that a student has demonstrated the civic knowledge, skills, mindsets, and experiences necessary to become an actively engaged citizen. Earning the Seal of Civic Readiness distinction on a high school transcript and diploma:

- Shows the student's understanding of and commitment to participatory government, civic responsibility, and civic values;
- Provides universities and colleges with a method to recognize and provide credit for attainment of higher level of understanding and skills in Social Studies;
- Demonstrates to universities, colleges, and future employers that students have earned recognition for their civic knowledge, skills, mindset, and experiences; and
- Recognizes the value of civic engagement and scholarship to school communities and society at large.



Pathway to the Seal of Civic Readiness



Pathway Overview

Students can achieve civic readiness by combining various educational experiences, which is essential for their overall development and success in civic participation.

Point Accumulation

Achieving the necessary points requires students to strategically plan their course selections and extracurricular activities to meet the criteria for the Seal of Civic Readiness.

Flexible Options

Students have the opportunity to explore diverse pathways, ensuring they can tailor their learning experiences based on their interests and strengths while fulfilling the civic requirements.

Point System Overview

Points Requirement

Students are required to accumulate at least 6 points to be eligible for the Civic Seal, guaranteeing their active involvement in both knowledge acquisition and participation activities.

Civic Knowledge

A core requirement includes earning at least 2 points from Civic Knowledge, which can be achieved through various coursework and examinations pertaining to civic studies.

Civic Participation

Students must also accumulate at least 2 points from Civic Participation, allowing them to engage in meaningful community activities and extracurricular programs.

Flexible Accumulation

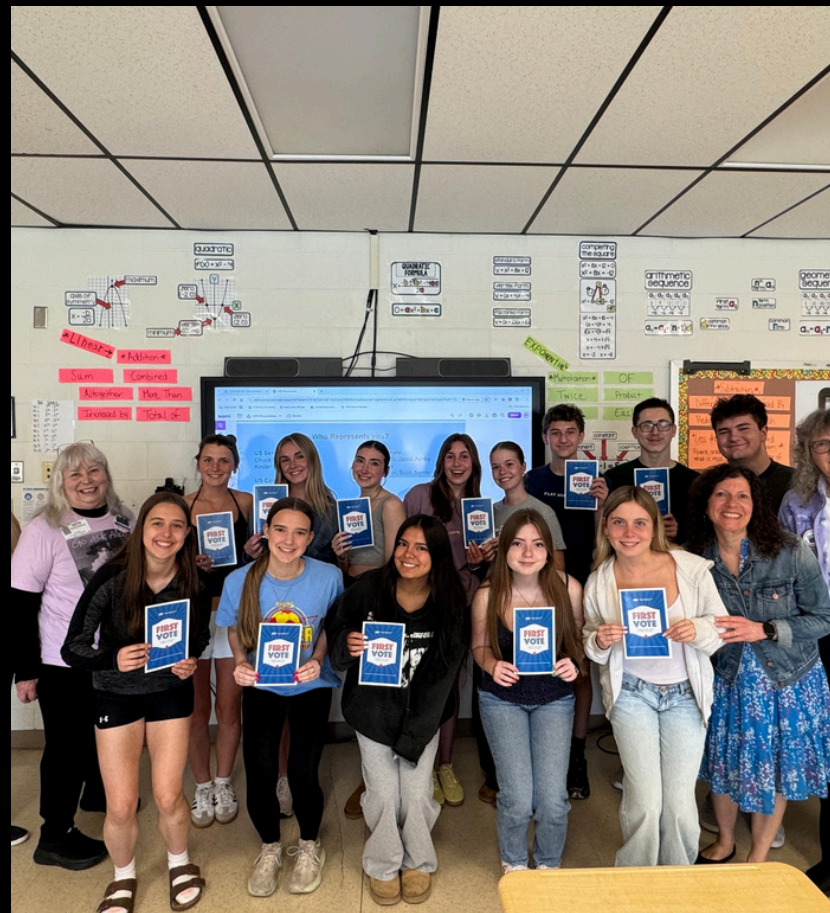
The remaining points can be obtained from either Civic Knowledge or Civic Participation, providing students the flexibility to tailor their pathway according to their interests.

Criteria for the Seal of Civic Readiness

Civic Knowledge	Pts.	Civic Participation	Pts.
4 credits of social studies	1	High School Civics Project (limit two times during grades 9–12)	1.5
Mastery level on Social Studies Regents Exam	1.5*	Service–Learning Project (minimum 25 hours) and reflective civic learning essay/presentation/product	1*
Proficiency level on Social Studies Regents Exam	1*	Earned credit in an elective course that promotes civic engagement	.5*
Advanced social studies course(s)	.5*	Middle School Capstone Project (Grades 7 and 8 are only eligible for this point)	1
		Extra-curricular participation or work–based learning experience (minimum 40 hours) and an essay/presentation/product	.5*

***Students may receive these points more than once.**

Civic Knowledge Points



Social Studies

Completing four Social Studies courses is essential for earning 1 point, as it lays a solid foundation for civic understanding and engagement throughout their education.

Proficiency Level on the Regents Exam

Achieving proficiency on the U.S. or Global Exam grants 1 point, reinforcing the importance of a well-rounded civic education for future endeavors in civic involvement.

Mastery Level on the Regents Exam

Students can earn 1.5 points by demonstrating mastery on U.S. or Global Exams, showcasing their knowledge and readiness for civic participation in today's world.

AP and SUPA Courses

Enrolling in AP U.S. History, World History, or SUPA Government offers students 0.5 points, enriching their understanding of historical contexts and fostering critical civic perspectives.

Demonstrating Civic Readiness



Engagement

Students can engage in community service projects that help foster a sense of responsibility and active citizenship while also earning points towards their Civic Readiness Seal requirements.



Collaboration

Collaborating with local organizations can provide students with practical experiences that enhance their understanding of civic duties and responsibilities, enriching their educational journey and community connections.

Civic Participation within the classroom

High School Civics Project

- Completing projects enables students to earn 1.5 points each. These projects not only deepen their understanding but also promote the practical application of civic concepts.
- Students can complete these projects twice between grades 9–12, allowing for greater flexibility in earning points while deepening their engagement with civic topics and real-world issues.

Elective Credits

Each of these options contributes significantly to students' civic readiness, allowing them to accumulate points while deepening their knowledge and active participation in civic life.

Middle School Capstone Project

During students' 8th-grade year, a capstone project can provide students with 1 point for demonstrating their cumulative knowledge and skills in civic readiness through a comprehensive, experiential learning opportunity.



Civic Participation within the Community



Extracurriculars

Engaging in extracurricular activities such as FFA, Student Council, FBLA, Environmental Club, Spanish Club, and the National Honor Society helps cultivate essential skills. These experiences not only encourage students to connect with their communities but also allow them to earn 1 point while gaining valuable insights.

SkillsUSA

Involvement in SkillsUSA prepares students for careers in skilled trades, blending practical experience with civic engagement, and allowing them to meet necessary participation points effectively and meaningfully.

Civic Participation within the Community

Volunteer Hours

Completing more than 40 hours of volunteer work with organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Special Olympics, or local churches can earn you 1 point, highlighting the importance of civic engagement and leadership skills.



Community Programs

Engaging with local community programs, such as volunteer firefighters or EMS, encourages teamwork and civic responsibility, providing students with hands-on experiences that earn points towards their civic goals.



Civic Participation within the Community

Work-Based Learning

Completing more than 40 hours of a work-based learning program can help students earn 1 point while gaining valuable on-the-job training and experience.



Service Learning Project

Service-learning is an inquiry-driven, hands-on educational method that teaches curriculum goals through community contributions. It surpasses traditional community service by allowing students to apply their knowledge to meaningful issues.

Further Information

All information regarding the requirements can be found in the Seal of Civic Readiness Handbook.

Complete the Seal of Civic Readiness Application Form by December 4th to indicate if and when you plan to apply for the Seal.

If you have any questions, please contact your student's guidance counselor or Lauren Huber at huberl@schuylerville.org