

# The New York State Seal of Civic Readiness



# Background - What is Civic Readiness

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New York State  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

**Civic readiness is the ability to make a positive difference in the public life of our communities through the combination of civic knowledge, skills and actions, mindsets, and experiences.**

# WHAT IS THE SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS?

The Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition that you have attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences. **The Seal of Civic Readiness appears as a distinction on a your high school transcript and diploma that:**

- shows your understanding of a commitment to participatory government; civic responsibility and civic values;
- demonstrates to universities, colleges, and future employers that you have completed **two** civic action projects; and
- recognizes the value of civic engagement and scholarship.

In addition to the Seal appearing on your transcript and diploma, earning a Seal will provide you with a red, white and blue honor cord to be worn at graduation.



Demonstrate a fundamental and functional knowledge of government, law, history, geography, culture, economics, and current events. These may include inequities within our democratic system at the federal, state and local level. Students should know how to apply this knowledge to different circumstances and settings.



Demonstrate the mindset of a participant in a democratic society. A civic mindset is a commitment to democratic interpersonal and intrapersonal values, virtues, attitudes, and beliefs and informed actions that promote and facilitate meaningful participation in civic life. It is an understanding of self as part of and responsible to larger social groups.



Demonstrate a broad array of critical analytic, verbal, communication, media literacy and other skills and participate in a wide variety of actions. Students should practice such actions both inside and outside of school on a regular basis.



Participate in developmentally appropriate civic experiences. Civic readiness should be developed in a variety of settings and ways—inside and outside of the classroom, across content areas, and for multiple purposes. Civic Readiness should be promoted by engaging students in relevant experiences that include students as active

# What are the requirements?

## 6 Points Total to Qualify for the Seal

- You must demonstrate proficiency in two domains:
  - Civic Knowledge (at least 2 pts.)
  - Civic Participation (at least 2 pts.)
- A total of six points must be obtained to qualify for the Seal.

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
Research Project	1	Extra-curricular participation or work-based learning experience (minimum 40 hours) and an essay/presentation/product	.5*
		Civics Capstone Project	4

\*Students may receive these points more than once.

Must earn at least 2 points

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# How can you earn the Seal at POBJFK?

**The Goal:** To provide all of our graduating seniors with the opportunity to earn the Seal of Civic Readiness.

**The Plan:**

- We will offer **two** Civic Action Projects in all senior government courses (Contemporary Social Issues, Facing History and Ourselves, and AP Government and Politics).
- These Civic Action projects will begin in class, are tied to a specific civic issue, and must be completed outside of the classroom.
- Students will be given the opportunity to complete their projects alone or in small groups, write an individual reflection, and submit on Google Classroom to the Seal Committee.

# What will each Civic Action Project look like?

Civic Participation	Pts.
High School Civics Project (limit two times during grades 9-12)	1.5

The Civic Project is focused on a civic issue or problem that can be interpreted in a variety of ways by a broad array of citizens holding various viewpoints.

- Analyze data and primary, and secondary sources of evidence related to the civic issue under investigation and its impact on communities. Sources will be provided by the teacher in class.
- Evaluate at least 2 current public policies related to the issue or problem under investigation in class.
- Recommend and/or evaluate potential strategies to address the issue or problem that is under investigation. This will be completed individually or in a small group outside of class.
- Communicate their project using written, audio/visual, and/or oral presentations. This will be completed individually or in a small group outside of class.
- Explain how the project influenced their civic knowledge, skills, and mindsets. This will be completed individually outside of class.

# What can you expect moving forward?

- Your teacher will guide you through an in depth analysis of a civic issue or problem.
- You will be provided with a rubric that outlines the specific details of the Civic Action Project requirements and submission dates.
- Your teacher will provide you with the google classroom code to submit your Civic Action Projects and personal reflection.
- Your teacher as well as the Seal Committee members listed below are available to support you through the process.

## **Seal Committee Members:**

Dr. Jim Bolen, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Maria Carnesi, Chairperson of Social Studies, K-12

Philip Farrelly, Assistant Principal, J.F.K. High School

Thomas DeMartinis, Social Studies Teacher, J.F.K. High School

# Why should the Seal matter to you?



Stand out and distinguish yourself in the college/career search

Leave behind a better school, community and country with every new opportunity



Engage in your community with learning experiences designed to improve your world

Learn the civic skills necessary to promote a life of continual growth and improvement

