



Arizona State Seal of Civics Literacy
Paradise Valley School District Student Guidance Document

The Arizona State Seal of Civics Literacy is just one of four Seals that the Arizona State Board of Education sponsors to recognize the incredible work our high school graduates receive who have attained a high level of proficiency in civics related coursework and completion of additional extracurricular activities.

The State Seal of Civics Literacy, or A.R.S. §15-259, is a recent addition to the Arizona Department of Education. We are so excited that you have decided to pursue this honorable recognition of your hard work and engagement in Civics Literacy.

The Seal is a *Celebration* of your work in civic engagement, as well as a *Distinction*, that can be leveraged to showcase what you've accomplished in high school. Earning the Seal is a testament to your talents and dedication which further highlights the quality of PVSchools' programs, courses, teachers and schools. This is a *Pathway* you have decided to pursue which leverages the diverse civic engagement opportunities that are afforded to all of our students in our schools.

Congratulations in advance on your hard work, and we look forward to celebrating your success upon completion of this admirable project.

Dan Courson, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Paradise Valley Unified School District



Qualifying Seal Requirements

Eligibility for the State Seal of Civics Literacy:

- Students must complete all requirements during grades 9-12.
- Students must complete all social studies courses with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 out of a 4.0 scale. [Verification Form](#), signed by counselor of grade on AP exam and other coursework for eligibility
- Students must pass the [Arizona State Civics Exam](#). (Graduating class of 2026 will need a passing score of 70% or better)
- Students must complete activities from each of the 4 categories.
 - Category 1 - Civic Learning Program
 - Category 2 - Civic Engagement Activities
 - Category 3 - Service Learning and/or Community Service Activities
 - Category 4 - Written Reflection of Program
- It is recommended you select and meet with a mentor teacher to assist you through this process.

Documentation required to earn this seal:

Please read the following four Categories carefully and refer back to them often to ensure all components are included. Each category has a specific number of requirements.

Category 1: Civic Learning Programs (Choose Three)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass A.P Government and Politics exam with a 3 or better <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Institutes/Intensives (See below) <input type="checkbox"/> JROTC (2 year minimum) <input type="checkbox"/> School- sponsored extracurricular activities (See below) <input type="checkbox"/> Verification Log , signed by mentor/teacher for out of school programs
Category 2: Civic Engagement Activities <i>These activities must be completed outside of the school day. The menu of options are as follows: (Choose Two)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Serving on site council <input type="checkbox"/> Member of a commission or Youth Advisory Board <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Council <input type="checkbox"/> Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts <input type="checkbox"/> Attend at least two public meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering on a political campaign <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a protest, march, or demonstration <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in a voter registration, voter education, or get-out-the-vote campaign <input type="checkbox"/> Verification Log , signed by mentor/teacher for out of school programs
Category 3:	<input type="checkbox"/> 75 Hours of Service Learning/Community Service for a

<p>Service Learning or Community Service Activities</p> <p><i>These activities must be completed outside of the school day. The menu of options are as follows: (Choose One)</i></p>	<p>public agency or charitable organization that serves the public good. (A signed copy of service hours is required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enlistment in any branch of the United States Military (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Space Force) before graduation meets this requirement. <input type="checkbox"/> Verification Log, signed by mentor/teacher for out of school programs
<p>Category 4: Reflection (Required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Written reflection on the personal experiences earning the Arizona State Seal of Civic Literacy. (refer to included rubric for guidance)

Options for Seal of Civic Literacy

Summer Institutes/Intensives

- Civic Leadership Institute - ASU School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership
- Cesar Chavez Leadership Institute - ASU
- Other University Based Programs
- Senate Youth Program
- Boys and Girls State
- Junior Statesman
- National Student Leadership Conference Programs in Government and Law
- Close-Up
- YMCA Youth and Government Program

School Sponsored Extracurricular Activities

- Mock Trial
- Model UN
- Speech and Debate
- Law Dat
- National History Day
- We the People
- Project Citizen
- Participatory Budgeting
- Interact
- Key Club or any other Service based club (GC105)
- DemocraSeed
- Teen Court

NOTE: Other programs not listed may be used if approved by the Arizona Department of Education, contact [Linda Burrows](#), ADE Director of Social Studies and World and Native Languages, for approval.

Seal of Civic Literacy: Reflection Rubric

Directions: The purpose of the reflection is to share your experiences during your pursuit of the Seal and create a plan for college or career, post high school. Please use this rubric as a guide for planning.

- Reflect on your journey as an actively engaged citizen through the years. How did it evolve from freshman year to the present?
- How did the Seal process prepare you for relevant, real-world, professional experiences beyond the academic environment?
- What did you learn through the pursuit of the Civics Literacy Seal that you will take with you and apply to college and/or career pursuits after high school?

	Above Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Below Expectations
	4	3	2	1
Reflective Thinking	The reflection explains the student's own thinking and learning processes, as well as implications for future learning.	The reflection explains the student's thinking about his/her own learning processes.	The reflection attempts to demonstrate thinking about learning but is vague and/or unclear about the personal learning process.	The reflection does not address the student's thinking and/or learning.
<i>Analysis- In this section, you are REQUIRED to include evidence from Category 2. Analyze the impact those experiences had on your civic knowledge and overall learning.</i>	The reflection is an in-depth analysis of the learning experience, supported by multiple pieces of evidence, the value of the derived learning to self or others, and the enhancement of the student's appreciation for the discipline.	The reflection is an analysis of the learning experience, supported by evidence, and the value of the derived learning to self or others.	The reflection attempts to analyze the learning experience but the value of the learning to the student or others is vague and/or unclear, and provides limited evidence.	The reflection does not move beyond a description of the learning experience.
Making Connections	The reflection articulates multiple connections between this learning experience and content from other	The reflection articulates connections between this learning experience and content from other courses, past	The reflection attempts to articulate connections between this learning experience and content from other	The reflection does not articulate any connection to other learning or experiences.

	courses, past learning, life experiences and/or future goals.	learning experiences, and/or future goals.	courses, past learning experiences, or personal goals, but the connection is vague and/or unclear.	
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District Documentation Requirements

- ❖ Students should submit all evidence of work in the form of a Google Presentation. It is recommended that the presentation should be reviewed by a mentor teacher prior to sharing with the Social Studies Curriculum Specialist, Lynn Hoppes, by April 1, 2023. The District Seals Committee will review and make recommendations of awardees.
- ❖ The SlideShow should be titled with the student's First and Last Name, the initials of the High School they attend, and Seal of Civics Literacy Applicant (Ex: *Lynn Hoppes, PVHS, Seal of Civics Literacy Applicant*).
- ❖ Each of the four categories should have a slide or multiple slides dedicated to each choice and brief explanation of what was your role or how the requirement was met. Document all expectations as explained in the checklist. Forms which require a signature can be scanned and linked.
- ❖ The Reflection Rubric will be utilized to determine eligibility for the Seal. Students will be notified of the Seal status by May 1st, 2023.