



Book	Administrative Guideline Manual
Section	5000 Students
Title	DIPLOMA SEALS
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5460D - **DIPLOMA SEALS**

The Board of Education authorizes students to earn the following seal(s) to fulfill State requirements to earn a diploma.

A. Community Service Seal

The Board believes that high-quality community service experiences help prepare students for success in the workplace by allowing them to apply academic and technical skills in a real-life setting. Community service also connects students with the community in a positive way and teaches them to become good citizens.

A student may earn a Community Service Seal by completing a minimum of thirty (30) hours of community service (unpaid) during high school in a high-quality community service experience.

A high-quality community service experience achieves the following:

1. helps students make invaluable connections in their community
2. gives students an opportunity to explore possible career options in the public, nonprofit and philanthropic sectors and gain valuable work skills
3. exposes students to the needs of their community and promotes an understanding of and the value in civic engagement as well as volunteerism
4. provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate social and emotional skills, academic knowledge, leadership, professionalism, and critical reasoning

Community service must be completed with an approved charitable organization which is preferably located and registered as a nonprofit organization in Ohio. Students may verify whether a nonprofit organization is registered in Ohio on the Ohio Attorney General's website at <https://charitableregistration.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/charities/Research-Charities.aspx>.

Community service experiences must be approved by the District's designated community service advisor in advance. The Board designates High School Guidance Counselor to serve as the community service advisor. To obtain approval, students must submit the following information:

1. name and description of the organization
2. a description of the proposed community service activities
3. a timeline for completing community service hours

Students will be required to submit a completed community service agreement that is signed by the advisor, student, parent and an individual at the organization (not a parent) who will oversee the student's work.

Community service hours must be documented and verified by an individual at the community service organization before they are submitted to the school advisor for final approval. A journal of the times and duties performed may be useful, and pictures can provide further evidence. All documentation must be submitted to their guidance counselor no later than the first Monday in April of their graduation year

B. Fine/Performing Arts Seal

The Board believes that participation in fine and performing arts programs supports the development of critical skills such as creativity, sensory processing, communication, problem-solving, cultural awareness, and expression. It also helps students gain confidence that will assist them throughout life.

A student may earn a Fine Arts Seal by completing two semesters of Art, with a passing grade (Art Fundamentals, Drawing and Painting, Sculpture and Ceramics).

This will be evidenced by transcripts.

Students may also earn the Performing Arts Seal by participating in at least one (1) of the following:

1. One (1) year of Band/Choir, with a passing grade. (Students must participate in the entire scheduled season).
2. Two (2) semesters of other, with a passing grade (piano, musical theater).
3. Two (2) musicals or plays at Elida High, after the start of their freshman year.
4. Two (2) years of outside private lessons, after the start of their freshman year (dance, voice, instrumental, performing arts involvement).

This will be evidenced by transcripts, directors or advisors signature, turned in no later than the first Monday of April of the graduation year. (Director/advisors cannot be a family member).

C. **Student Engagement Seal** The Board believes that meaningful participation in Board-approved extracurricular activities helps to develop a well-rounded student who is more engaged in the school community.

Students may earn a Student Engagement Seal by participating in at least one (1) of the following:

1. Two (2) completed seasons of a school sponsored athletic team (evidenced by coach signature/P.E. waiver).
2. Two (2) years of any school student organizations (Active participation of a minimum of thirty (30) hours in a club verified by the club advisor and attendance sheets, turned in no later than the first Monday of April of the graduation year).
3. Two (2) years of outside clubs (4-H, youth group, church group) (Active participation of a minimum of thirty (30) hours with an advisor's signature, cannot be a family member, on a log sheet is required and must be turned in no later than the first Monday of April of the graduation year).

In order for participation to count toward earning the seal, students must participate in the entire scheduled season of the activity. Participation must be verified by the program advisor or coach.

All earned diploma seals will be affixed to a student's diploma and an official transcript.