

# Unpacking the Civic Readiness Handbook and Voices from the Field



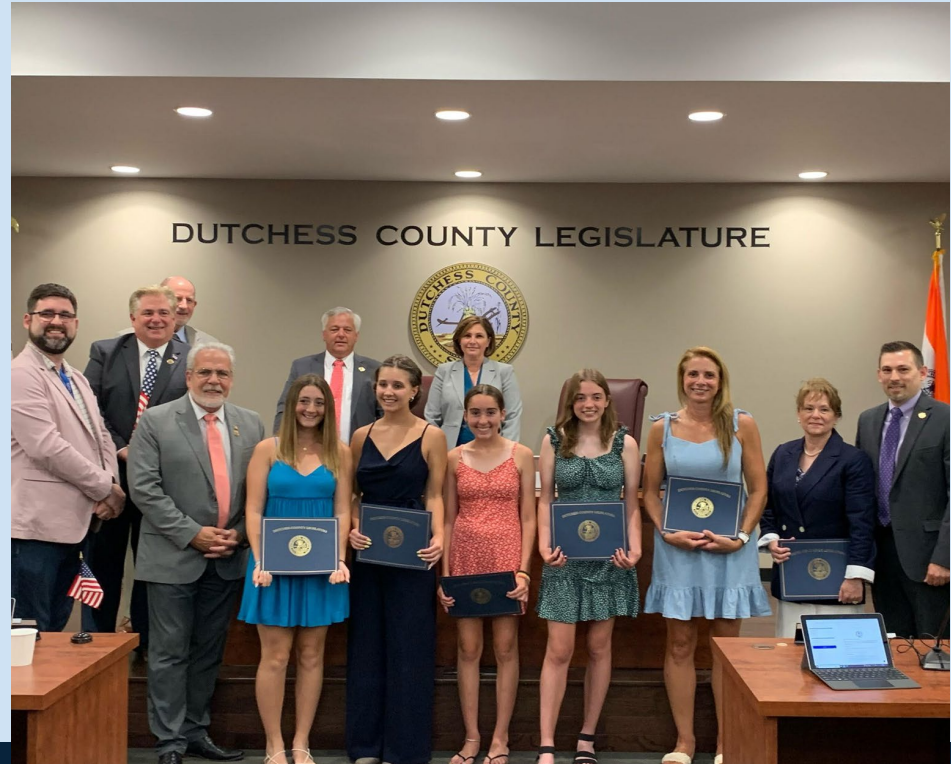
New York State  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
[Knowledge](#) > [Skill](#) > [Opportunity](#)

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# 350+ schools are offering the Seal of Civic Readiness for the 2022-2023 school year representing:

- 36 of 37 BOCES
- 6 of 7 Big 5 Schools

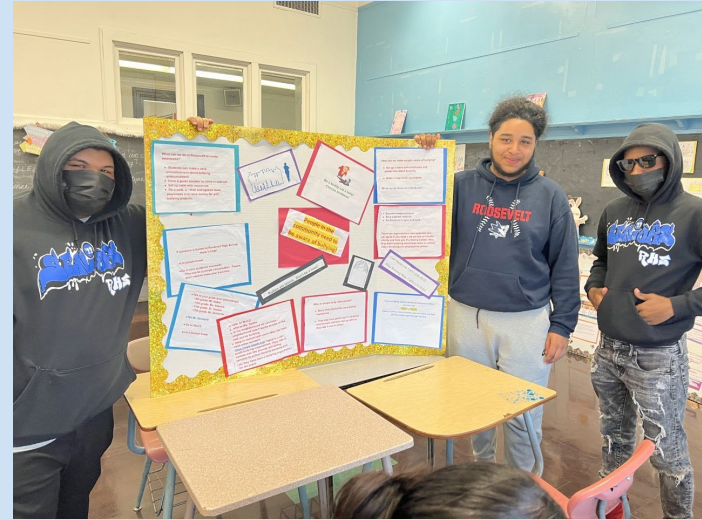


# The Seal of Civic Readiness is individualized to meet the needs of each school community

## Civic Knowledge



## Civic Participation



## Choose your 6 points to earn the Seal of Civic Readiness

At least 2 points here



AND 2 points here



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*	Proficiency level 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.



# Ballston Spa High School

**Dr. Gianleo Duca**, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Ballston Spa Central School District

**Heather Mazurowski**, Instruction Teacher Leader, 9-12 Social Studies, Ballston Spa High School

**Daniel A. Hornick**, High School Social Studies Teacher, Ballston Spa High School



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# Our 2021-2022 Success

- Last year, 187 students earned the Seal of Civic Readiness in our graduating senior class.
- This was and is NOT a requirement for graduation, rather it shows how knowledgeable and involved our Ballston Spa students are.
- We are trying to create a pathway for every student to try and earn the Seal and it could become a pathway to graduation for some students.

# **Administrative Perspective**

**Dr. Gianleo Duca**

- **High School Principal during Pilot Program 2021-2022**
- **Current Interim Superintendent of Schools**

**Biggest Advice:**

- 1) Utilize existing resources**
- 2) Create a targeted plan with checkpoints to progress monitor**
- 3) Clear communications with all stakeholders**



**How did Ballston Spa achieve this success?**

**We had the infrastructure ALREADY in place**





# Existing Infrastructure

- Our Government classes were already in a participatory model where students:
  - Attend public meetings
  - Develop an understanding of their local communities
  - Synthesize their experiences into a High School Civics Project
- Large number of Advanced Classes offered at Ballston Spa (Advanced Placement, College in the High School, and International Baccalaureate)
- Expansive selection of electives rooted in civics
- Genuine buy in and enthusiasm from the dedicated team of administrators, guidance counselors, and teachers

# Support from ALL PARTS of the District

- Superintendent
- High School Principal
- High School Assistant Principals
- Guidance Counselors
- The High School and Middle School Instructional Teacher Leaders
- The ENTIRE Social Studies Department
- The Business Department
- The District Chief Information Officer

# Our Local Seal Committee

- The Ballston Spa Seal of Civic Readiness Committee includes:
  - A Building Level Administrator
  - The Social Studies Instructional Teacher Leaders
  - Two Social Studies Teachers
  - A locally elected Community Member
    - In our case, a member of the Ballston Spa School Board
    - **NOTE: The inclusion of a elected community member is a model which Ballston Spa likes to highlight to other districts.**

# Advising ALL Students

- During junior year, students will receive a presentation during their US History class with follow through during junior conferences for planning senior schedules to help students plan a path to help them earn the Seal if they so choose.
- Senior teachers help students complete the application and provide them with all necessary paperwork in addition to completing certain projects senior year as part of class.

**What was our MOST Common Pathway?**

## **For Civic Knowledge:**

- All students need a four year Social Studies sequence, which gets them one point.
- To graduate you need to pass both Regents exams, this earns a student at least 2 points.
- Some students will earn additional points for advanced classes.
- All 12th grade classes complete some type of research project which gets a student an additional point.

**THEREFORE MOST STUDENTS GET AT  
LEAST  
FOUR POINTS IN CIVIC KNOWLEDGE**

## **For Civic Participation:**

- **Most students completed a version of the “My Community and I” project as part of a 12th Grade Government class earning 1.5 points.**

**Next, we needed to find MOST students a ½ point to earn the Seal.**

- **Some can earn it through a Service Learning Project**
- **Some will earn it by completing a Social Studies elective or Business and Personal Law (#1 Pathway)**
- **Some will earn it through Extra Curricular Participation (some through school, others in the community—such as volunteer fire fighting, 4-H, Scouts USA, etc.)**
- **Others will earn it through Work Based Learning**



# Highlighted Work

**2a. High School Civics Project:** Students can earn up to 1.5 points for completing a civics project in a Social Studies class.

The “My Community and I” project has been included in MOST 12th Grade Social Studies classes to help students earn these points.

Parts of the Project:

- Attend a Public Meeting; Community Profile Project; Media Project

# Implementation Advice

- Build a team
- Modify your Participation in Government Program
  - Include or Modify Programing to create a High School Civics Project
- Build your Social Studies Program
  - Advanced Classes
  - Electives
- Develop a Team to oversee Student Success Tracking
- BOCES Specific:
  - Regional Electives
  - Offer civic based classes to students who attend training programs at Regional BOCES Centers



# South Country School District

**Beth Doyle**, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction,  
South Country School District

**Jenna Restivo**, Director of Guidance, South Country School District

**Jaclyn O'Hagan**, Director of Humanities, South Country School  
District

**Andrew Budris**, Lead Teacher for Social Studies, Bellport High  
School



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# First Year Civic Seal Implementation

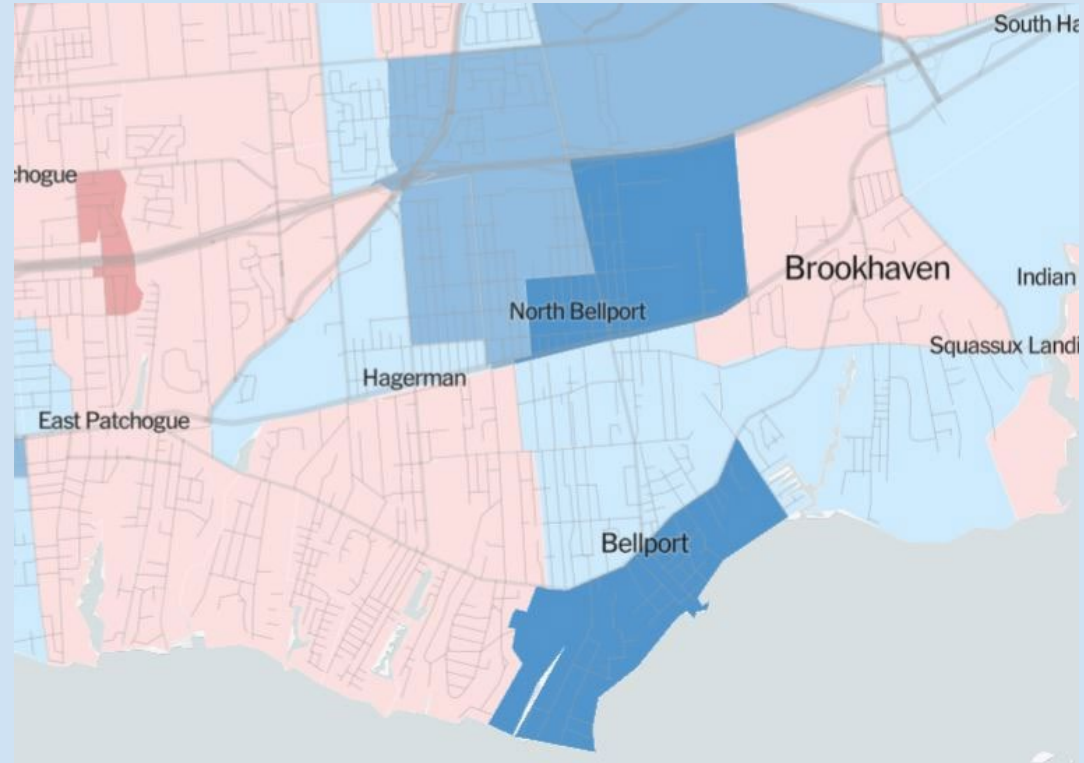
*Approximately 95%  
of our June  
graduates earned  
the Seal of Civic  
Readiness!*



## Demographics of South Country School District

AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	
16	0%
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	
684	17%
HISPANIC OR LATINO	
1,643	40%
ASIAN OR NATIVE HAWAIIAN/OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	
73	2%
WHITE	
1,498	37%
MULTIRACIAL	
151	4%

## Political Diversity of the South Country School District



# How did our students earn the points?

## ***Criteria for the Seal of Civic Readiness***

In order to obtain the Seal of Civic Readiness, a student must complete all the requirements for a New York State local or Regents diploma and earn a total of **six points** with at least **two points** in Civic Knowledge and at least **two points** in Civic Participation. Students may also earn points by completing a middle school Capstone project or a high school Capstone project.

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
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# Logistics- Tracking

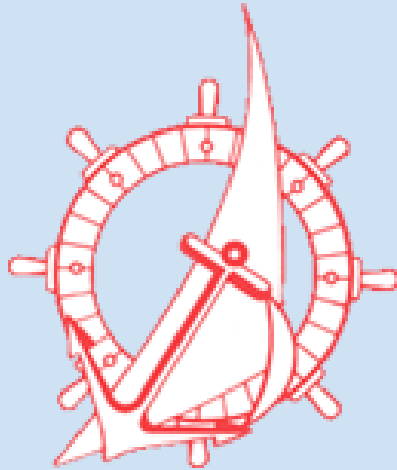
- Many of the Seal components can be tracked on a high school transcript
- We linked the “Civic Capstone” projects in our SIS to senior social studies classes as class assessments
- Students, Parents and School Counselors can easily view if the Capstone project was passed
- School Counselors were able to calculate the 6 points (passing 4 years of social studies, at least 1 Regents exam, and the Capstone project) directly from the transcript
- State Tracking: List given to data administrator to add to student status profile for state reporting

Test Scores		
Date	Test	Score
06/18/2018	FLACS Checkpnt A: Italian	97
06/18/2019	Regents Living Environment	91
06/19/2019	Regents Common Core Algebra I	80
06/02/2020	FLACS Checkpnt B: Italian	E
06/02/2020	Regents Common Core Geometry	E
06/02/2020	Regents NF Global History	E
06/02/2020	Regents Phy Set/Earth Sci	E
06/17/2021	Regents Common Core Algebra II	E
06/17/2021	Regents Common Core ELA Exempt	E
06/17/2021	Regents Phy Set/Chemistry	E
06/17/2021	Regents US History&Govt (Framework)	E
01/18/2022	High School Civic Capstone Project	PASS



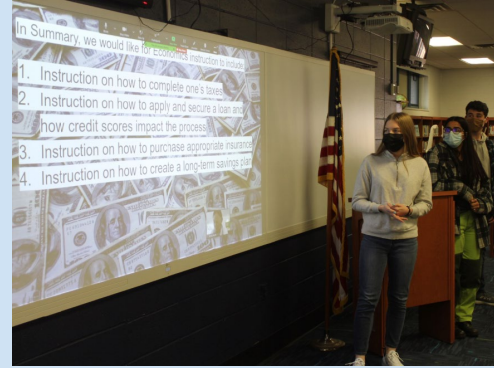
# The Capstone Project

What it looks like at South Country



# Civic Capstone Projects Empower our students

- Students come to consensus on controversial issues.
- Students research and analyze the root causes of their issue, and develop an action plan
- Students put plans into action by meeting with community members
- Students present their action plans at Civics Day
- Students are better prepared and motivated for long term political engagement



## Bellport High School Needs More Real Life Financial Education

Financial literacy is an essential piece of knowledge students at Bellport High School feel that is lacking. From basic knowledge of how credit score works, to how to take out student loans without jeopardizing our own financial well being. There is a necessity for adequate real life education on financial literacy in the classroom.



★  
★ PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT  
**GOAL:  
ADDRESSING  
AGGRESSIVE  
BEHAVIOR AT:  
BELLPORT  
HIGH SCHOOL**

MS. MOLLOY



12TH GRADE

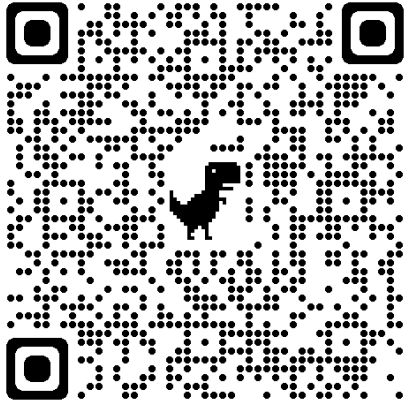
## The Risk of our School's Parking Stickers



Civics Day 2022



# Sample capstone presentations

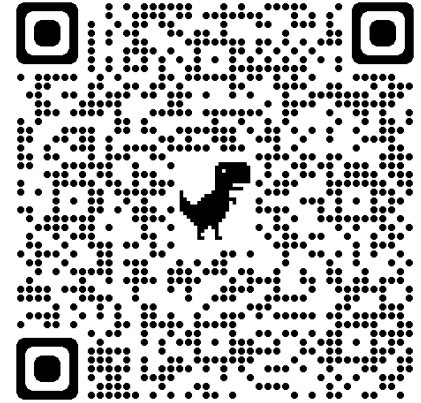
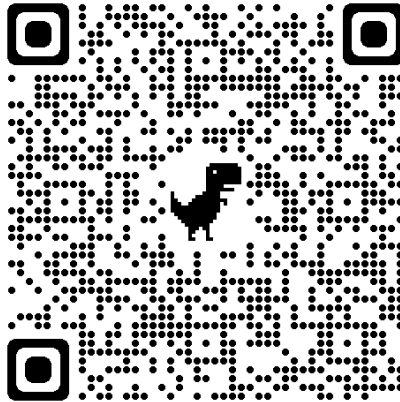


**Project:** Anti-litter  
Measures for  
Brookhaven Town

[https://tinyurl.com/  
ky58ps2b](https://tinyurl.com/ky58ps2b)

**Project:** Writing  
grants to improve  
youth sports and  
music participation

[https://tinyurl.com/  
4m9fsj4j](https://tinyurl.com/4m9fsj4j)



**Project:** Removing  
School Identifiers  
from Parking  
Stickers

[https://tinyurl.com/  
ydazu2pr](https://tinyurl.com/ydazu2pr)

Don't talk about change. **Lead it.**

# Generation Citizen Bellport Middle School Civics Day

Thursday, May 19, 2022

12:21-2:20 pm

AND

Friday, May 20

8:53 am-10:50 am

Location: Bellport Middle School Library

\*Zoom Link will be provided for guests who choose to attend virtually



Learn about the great work that 7th grade students are doing to make a positive impact on our school and community!  
Note: two dates are offered to showcase the work of several student groups, you may attend one or both of these dates.

*Kindly reply to Jackie O'Hagan*

*by May 12, 2022 @johagan@southcountry.org*

[www.GenerationCitizen.org](http://www.GenerationCitizen.org)

[Schedule of Student Presentations](#)

# Supporting Districts in Implementing the



- Developing capacity within school committees to administer and oversee the Seal: Social Studies Teachers, [School Counselors](#), Administrators, and other dedicated colleagues
- Assisting districts in reviewing what experiences and structures already exist (and design new ones as appropriate)
- Developing rubrics and tracking structures based on best practice
- Offering targeted professional learning regionally and in-district



The Social Studies SCDN Group and BOCES continue to provide critical support in developing the structures, experiences, materials and resources which support the authentic implementation of the Seal.



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# Unpacking the Seal of Civic Readiness Handbook





# Handbook Highlights

## 1. Criteria for Advanced and Elective Courses -P80

- *Advanced courses must include civic knowledge*
- *Electives must include civic knowledge and experiential learning*

## 2. Sample Rubric for the High School Civics Project (1.5 Points)-P64

- *Analysis and use of sources*
- *Evaluation of policies*
- *Justification of course of action*
- *Reflection*
- *Presentation*

## 3. Application of Knowledge, Reflection for Service Learning, Extra-Curricular and Work Based Learning -P71

- *Describe Experience*
- *Explain how Civic knowledge was gained*
- *Explain how Civic knowledge skills, action and mindset were impacted*

Excerpt from [\*\*NYSED's SEL Benchmarks\*\*](#) aligned to the  
Seal of Civic Readiness

**Ex. Take Action to Support the Well-Being of their school and  
community, including taking stands against bias and injustice (3C)**

<b>Grades K-2</b>	<b>Grades 6-8</b>	<b>Grades 11-12</b>
Identify ways they can help their family and classroom community	Participate in civic experiences such as community service to address identified needs in their school and community, including those rooted in bias and injustice, and reflect on their efforts	Participate cooperatively with others to plan, implement and evaluate civic capstone project that addresses social injustice identified in the local or global community.

**Thank you!**

**Thoughts and Questions?**

