



Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Williamsville is pleased to introduce and offer the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness Program. The Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition that a student has attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences. Through civic education, students learn how to identify and address problems in their school and community. Students also learn how to demonstrate respect for the rights of others, respectfully disagree with other viewpoints, and provide evidence for a counterargument. Civic education can strengthen the relationships of schools and students with parents, families, civic leaders, organizations, and community partners. The Seal of Civic Readiness distinction on a high school transcript and diploma:

- shows the student’s understanding of a commitment to participatory government; civic responsibility and civic values;
- demonstrates to universities, colleges, and future employers that the student has engaged in meaningful civic experiential learning; and
- recognizes the value of civic engagement and scholarship.

In addition to completing all of the requirements for graduating with a NYS local or Regents diploma, students wishing to receive the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness must also earn a total of six points (at least 2 points from the Civic Knowledge column and at least 2 points from the Civic Participation column). Please see the NYSED criteria as described below:

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.

Please refer to the **WCSD SCR Handbook** for additional information about specific requirements and criteria. All WCSD students in grades 9-12 have been opted into this program. If you choose for your student to opt out of this opportunity please sign the “Statement of Opt Out” below. **No action is required to remain an active member of the program.** If you change your mind at any time in the future, contact your Building Seal of Civic Readiness Coordinators:

South High School:	Mrs. Lesley Battaglia	lbattaglia@williamsvillek12.org	716-626- 8200
North High School:	Mrs. Rebecca Dolan	rdolan@williamsvillek12.org	716-626-8505
East High School:	Mr. Michael Harnick	mharnick@williamsvillek12.org	716-626-8400

Statement of Opt Out

I, (name of student) _____, do hereby state that I request to opt out of the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness Program. We have carefully read all the materials available and understand that opting out does not preclude me from opting in at a future date.

Please print the student's name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date