



HOLLAND
NYS SEAL OF CIVIC
READINESS (NYSSCR)

-NYS just approved our application for implementing the Seal this past September...

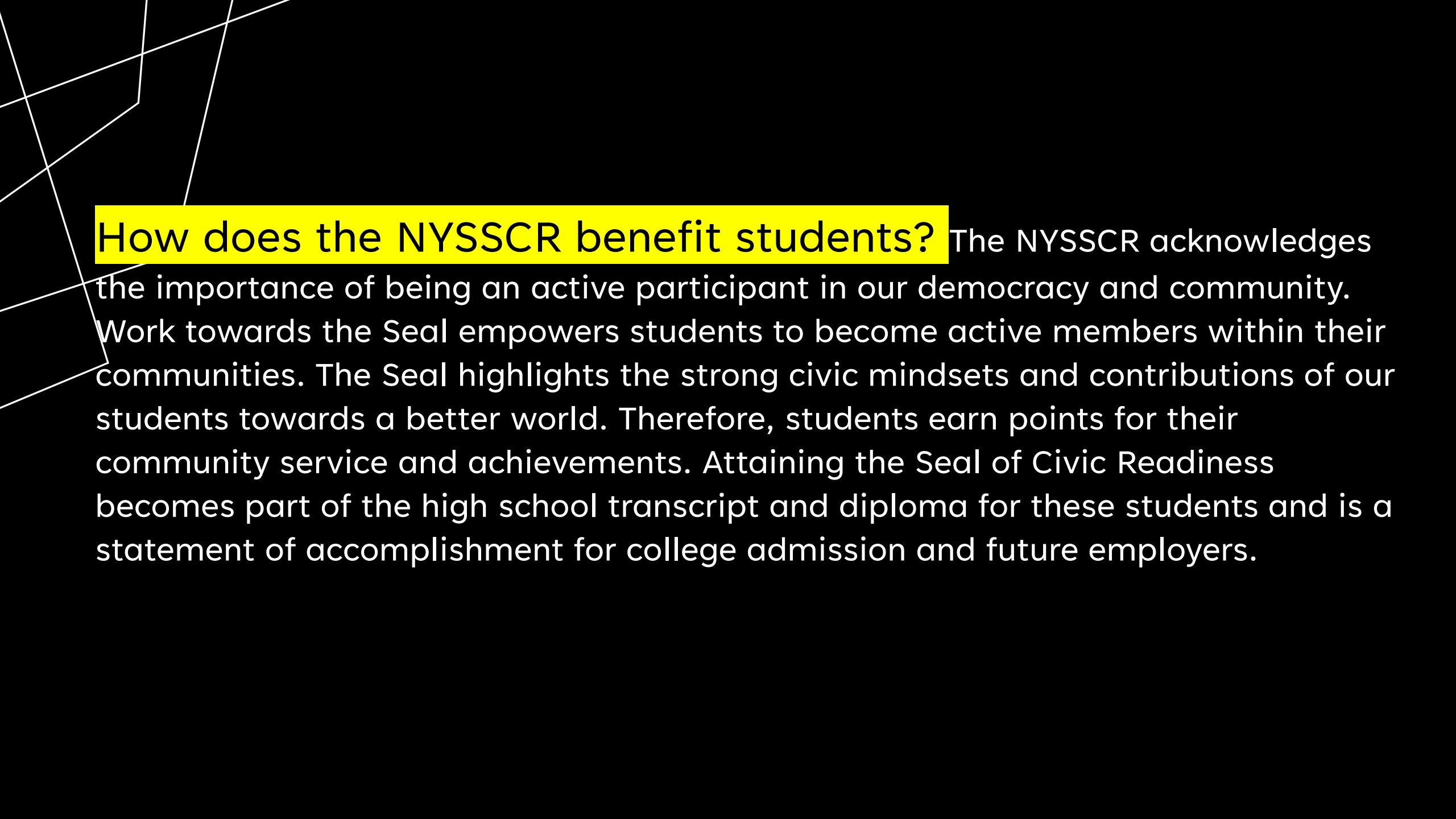
What is the Seal of Civic Readiness?

The Seal of Civic Readiness is a new initiative supported by the NYS Department of Education. In order to earn a Civics Seal, which will be included with their diploma, students have to earn a total six points through various schoolwork and outside activities that demonstrate their knowledge of civics, as well as civic engagement by becoming active citizens within their local community. Civic knowledge could mean some combination of passing their required social studies courses and/or social studies Regents exams (or achieving mastery on those exams), and taking advanced social studies courses.

-it is also an option as a graduation “**pathway**” (and will likely be mandated in the next few years by NYS as regents requirements go by the wayside)

Who is eligible to receive the Seal of Civic Readiness?

All students are eligible to receive the NYSSCR. Students must apply for the seal and complete all Seal requirements, including coursework, civic involvement and reflections, all necessary for earning the six points towards the Seal. The Seal is awarded on the students' high school diploma.



How does the NYSSCR benefit students? The NYSSCR acknowledges the importance of being an active participant in our democracy and community. Work towards the Seal empowers students to become active members within their communities. The Seal highlights the strong civic mindsets and contributions of our students towards a better world. Therefore, students earn points for their community service and achievements. Attaining the Seal of Civic Readiness becomes part of the high school transcript and diploma for these students and is a statement of accomplishment for college admission and future employers.

How do I earn points towards the Seal of Civic Readiness?

Below is a breakdown descriptor of points. Students must earn a total of 6 points, with at least 2 points from each column.

Civic Knowledge	Pts.	Civic Participation	Pts.
4 Credits of Social Studies	1	High School Civics Project	1.5
Mastery level on Social Studies Regents (85% or higher)	1.5*	Service-Learning Project (minimum 25 hours) and reflective civic learning essay/presentation/product	1*
Social Studies Regents Exams Proficiency Level (at least a 65-84%)	1*	Proficiency level in an elective course that promotes civic engagement	.5*
Advanced Social Studies Courses (A.P. or college-level courses)	.5*	Middle School Capstone Project	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

How can I support my scholar in attaining the Seal?

Encourage your child to question the world around them and empower your child to believe in their ability to make positive change in the world. Support your child's interest in extracurricular activities with civics and/or service-oriented goals. Many of our clubs take part in community service activities (some examples include: Student Council, Key Club, Varsity Club, SADD, Environmental Science Club etc.). Ensure that your children are challenging themselves in their selection of coursework and, particularly to earn the NYSSCR, Social Studies coursework. Schedule a meeting with your child's counselor to review their transcript and list of student activities to assess the number of points they have earned.

Where can I get more information about the Seal of Civic

Readiness?

There is more information about the components of the NYSSCR at [Social Studies | New York State Education Department](#) You can also reach out to your child's Social Studies teacher and/or their guidance counselor.



“**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.”

TRACKING AND EARNING POINTS:

-We will be using our Eschool program through the guidance department to track student points earned leading up to graduation. Mrs. Widger and Mrs. Hanlon will be the point people for helping keep track of this for our students.

-Our new Civics elective course (offered Fall of 2025) will also help funnel students interested in the Seal to projects/community service options and offer opportunities for community engagement and learning more about local government. Political and social debate, analyzing sources and public speaking will also be key components of the course

-Current seniors interested in trying to earn the Seal can schedule an appt./chat with Mr. Schmidt or Mrs. Widger to see where they are at currently point wise and devise a plan for how to achieve the remaining required points. We understand it will be a bit different this year compared to going forward with current underclassmen.

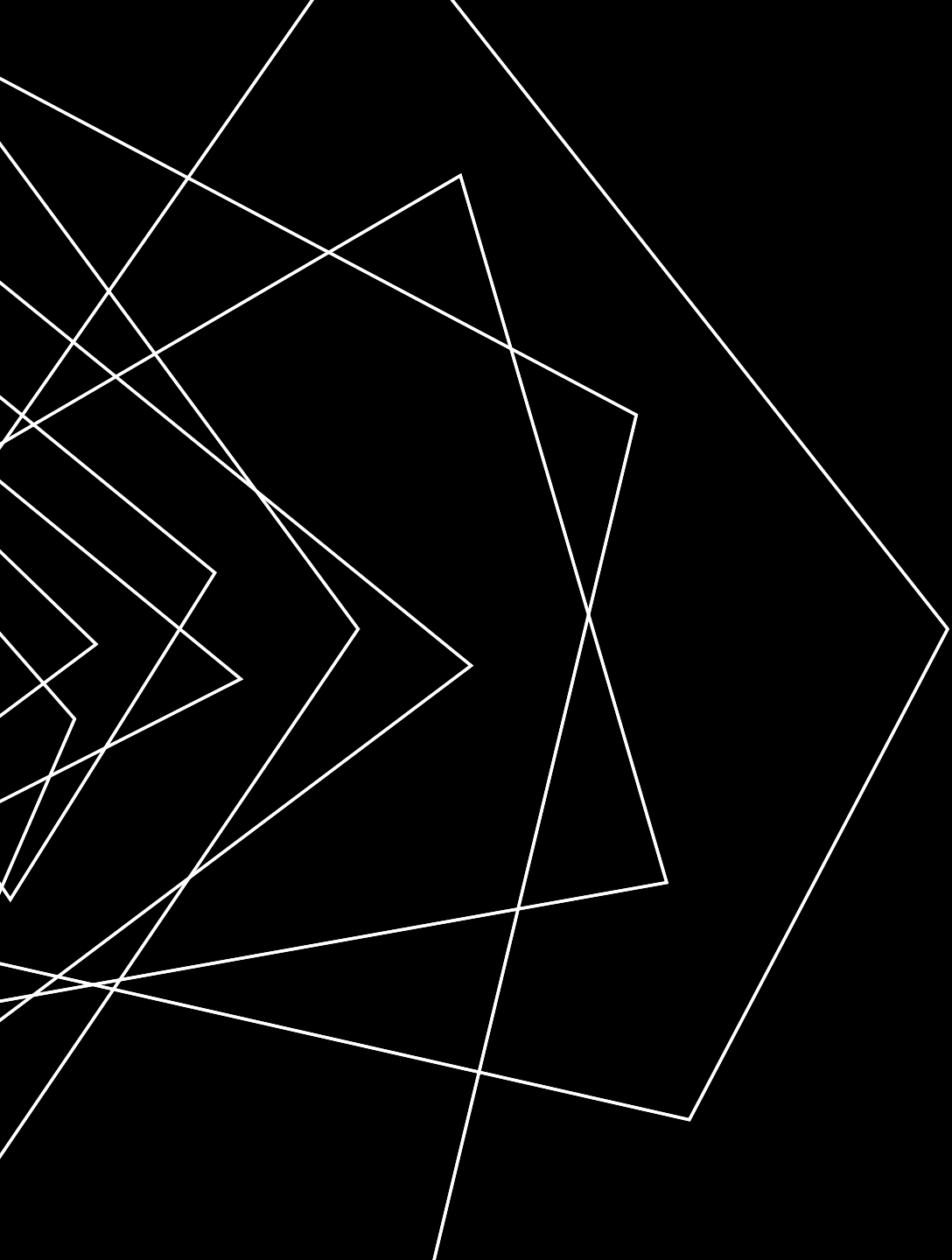
-All students 8-12 will be informed in their social studies classes here in December about this new opportunity for obtaining/working towards the Seal of Civic Readiness.

NYS SEAL WEBSITE OVERVIEW/EXPECTATIONS

THE NEW YORK STATE SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS HANDBOOK

- Our **Seal of Civic Readiness Committee (SCRC)** includes the following:
- -Mr. George Schmidt (gschmidt@hollandcsd.org)
- -Mr. Jason Jacobs
- -Mrs. Pamela Widger (pwidger@hollandcsd.org)
- -Mr. Liam Kelly
- -Mrs. Lisa Hanlon
- -Mr. Geoffrey Hack

- **please email Mr. Schmidt or Mrs. Widger with questions...



THANK YOU