Introducing the Seal of Civic Readiness in Clarkstown Schools

"*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.*"

- http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/civic-readiness-initiative

What is the Seal of Civic Readiness? The New York State Seal of Civic Readiness aims to encourage the study of civics and civility through experiential learning; certify attainment of civic readiness; provide employers with a method of identifying high school graduates with skills in civics and civility; provide colleges with another way to recognize applicants seeking admission; prepare students with 21st century skills; recognize the value of Social Studies education as a means to build civic knowledge; empower students as agents of positive social change; and strengthen our diverse democracy. The Seal of Civic Readiness can also be used as a 4+1 pathway to meet New York State diploma requirements.

Students who earn the Seal of Civic Readiness will have a seal affixed to their diploma, which they will receive at graduation. In addition, students who complete the requirements for earning the seal will have the designation listed on their official transcripts, and students pursuing the seal can note that they are candidates for the Seal of Civic Readiness on college and employment applications in advance of graduation.

How can I earn the Seal of Civic Readiness?

Students wishing to receive the Seal of Civic Readiness must complete all requirements for graduating and **earn at least six Civic Readiness points, including at least two points in Civic Knowledge and at least two points in Civic Participation** (see chart below).

Civic Knowledge	Points	Civic Participation	Points
4 credits of social studies required for graduation	1	**High School Civics Project** - Complete a project showing civic knowledge, skills, actions & mindsets	1.5**
Mastery level on SS Regents Exam (85 or higher on Global &/or US Regents - or exemption w/ course grade 85+)	1.5*	**Service-Learning Project** (minimum 25 hours) and reflective civic learning essay/presentation/product	1*
Proficiency on SS Regents Exam (Receive passing score or exemption on Global &/or US History Regents)	1*	**Earned credit in an elective course that promotes civic engagement** & reflective civic learning essay/presentation/product	.5*
Advanced social studies course(s)	.5*	**Extra-curricular or work-based learning experience involving civic engagement** (minimum 40 hours) and civic learning reflection	.5*
Social Studies Research Project that demonstrates civic knowledge	1	**High School Capstone Project** Includes identifying, researching, reflecting, and taking action on a community issue - & presenting project.	4

***Students may receive these points more than once.**
****Students may receive these points no more than two times.**

Civic Knowledge Points: All seniors who completed 10th grade Global II and 11th grade US History courses and received a passing score on the Global and US History Regents exams will have earned at least 3 Civic Knowledge points by fulfilling Social Studies graduation requirements and passing two Social Studies Regents exams.

Civic Participation Points: Students should check with their teachers whether High School Civics Projects will be a part of their 12th grade Social Studies courses to enable them to earn 1.5 points per project. Students should also review the additional ways to earn Civic Participation points to identify activities they have already completed since starting high school or will complete during senior year that could earn points. Any elements required for Civic Participation points that are not included as a part of students' courses must be completed by students separate from their coursework. A teacher advisor will be assigned to provide support and guidance to students completing Civic Participation points separate from their classes.

What is the timeline for completing requirements for the Seal of Civic Readiness?

September/October 2026: Attend the informational meeting at your school. You will then be invited to the Seal of Civic Readiness Google Classroom.

December 2026: Submit all reflections for previous elective courses and extracurriculars taken during high school prior to senior year on Google Classroom. You must have accumulated a total of 40 hours for extracurriculars.

April 2027: Submit all remaining components and reflections on Google Classroom. If student presentations are part of how students will earn their Civic Participation points, the Seal of Civic Readiness Committee will schedule these presentations with students.

May 2027: Seal of Civic Readiness Committee will review components and will notify students of their status.

May/June 2027: Advisors will share with Central Office the students who have completed all requirements to earn their seal.

What if I have questions about the Seal of Civic Readiness?

Various people can help answer your questions - or direct your questions to the best person to answer them - including your Social Studies teacher, your guidance counselor, Mr. Barsamian at South HS (sbarsamian@ccsd.edu), or Ms. Dowling at North HS (kdowling@ccsd.edu).

You are also encouraged to discuss the Seal of Civic Readiness opportunity and plans with your parents/caregivers.

For a fuller description of the Seal of Civic Readiness expectations, please see Clarkstown's Seal of Civic Readiness Handbook.