# NYSED Updates
# The Seal of Civic Readiness
# Social Studies Assessment Update


**NFCSS, October 16, 2021**

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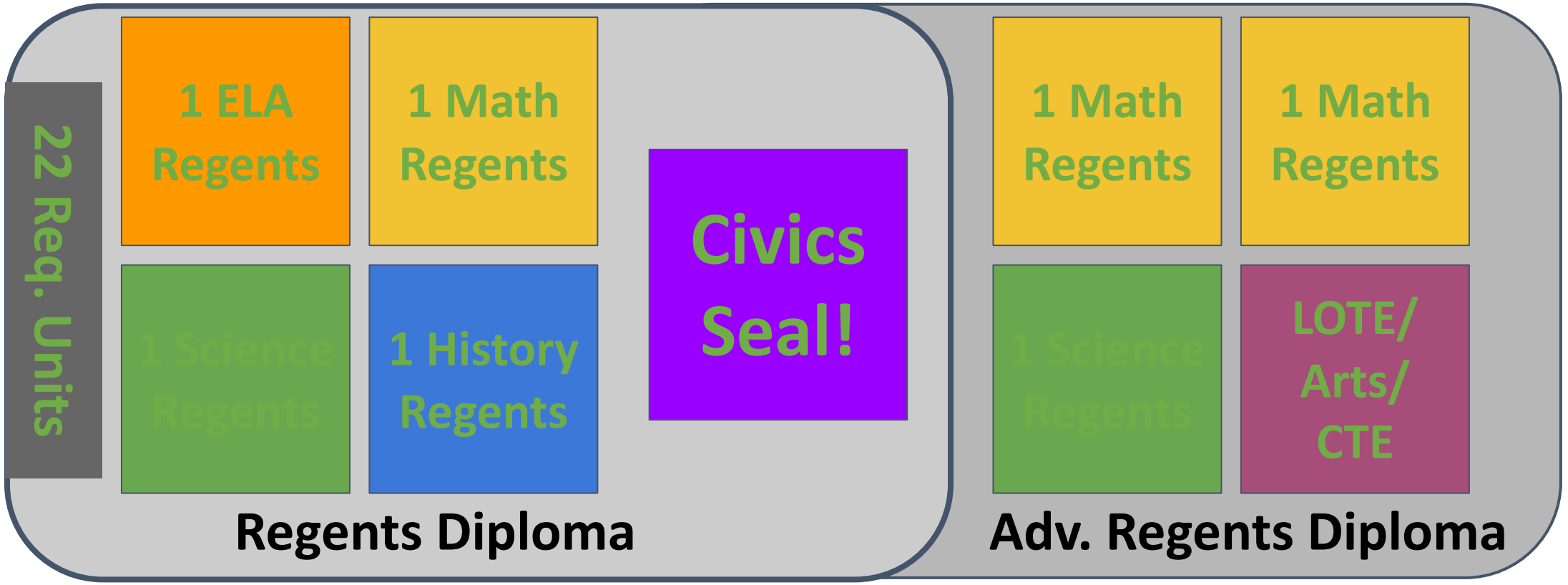
New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge › Skill › Opportunity

# The Seal of Civic Readiness as a Graduation: +1 Pathway



Criteria for the Seal of Civic Readiness. Students must earn at least 2 points in Civic Knowledge, 2 points in Civic Participation and a total of 6 points to earn the Seal of Civic Readiness. The Seal of Civic Readiness is a +1 Pathway that can count as a 5th Regents Exam. Projects may be done individually in a small group or as a class

| Civic Knowledge | Pts. | Civic Participation | Pts. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 Credits of Social Studies | 1 | High School Civics Project | 1.5 |
| Mastery level on Social Studies Regents | 1.5* | Service-Learning Project (minimum 25 hours) and reflective civic learning essay/presentation/product | 1* |
| Social Studies Regents Exams Proficiency Level | 1* | Proficiency level in an elective course that promotes civic engagement | .5* |
| Advanced Social Studies Courses | .5* | Middle School Capstone Project- Available to all 7th and 8th grade students | 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 |

# FIRST STEPS IN OFFERING THE SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS

- Form a School Seal Committee
  - x1 (must include Social Studies teacher(s))
  - x1 administrator
  - x1 counselor ( or a member who
  - makes scheduling decisions)
  - Build a route(s) to the
- Civics Seal for students
  - Use the QR Code to open the
- Preparing to Offer the Seal Folder

# Building a Route

Choose any combo of **blue** **and** **green** blocks to get to a total of **6 points**! (*You need at least 2 points from each color)*

**+1**
1a. 8 Required credits in Social Studies

**+1.5**
1b. Mastery on 1 or more History Regents *(can't do both with 1c)*

**+1**
1e. Complete approved Civics Research Paper

**+2**
2d. Civics extra-curr that culminates in...
2a. A Civics Project

**+4**
Civics Capstone (~2-4 semesters depending on implementation)

**+1**
1c. Pass 1 or more History Regents *(can't do both with 1b)*

**+0.5**
1d. Pass Pre-AP, AP, Honors, Pre-college, IB History

**+2**
2c. Civics Elective that culminates in...
2a. A Civics Project

**+1.5**
2a. civics project

**+1**
2b. Participate in 25 hour civic service-learning

# Example 1:

**+1**

1a. 4 Required credits in Social Studies

**+1**

1c. Pass 1 or more History Regents *(can't do both with 1b)*

**+2**

2c. Civics Elective that culminates in... + 2a. A Civics Project

**+2**

2c. Civics Elective that culminates in... + 2a. A Civics Project

In this example, students obtain 4 required history credit and pass 1 history Regents. They take two elective civics courses that each culminate in a civics project.

# Example 2:

**+1**

1a. 4 Required credits in Social Studies

**+1**

1c. Pass 1 or more History Regents *(can't do both with 1c)*

**+4**

Civics Capstone (~2-4 semesters depending on implementation)

In this example, students obtain 4 required history credits and pass 1 history Regents. They complete the Civics Capstone, which in this school happens throughout Participation in Gov't. There are more ways to structure a capstone.

# 1a-1d. Demonstrating Proficiency in Civic Knowledge (0.5-1.0)

Students can earn points towards the Seal through their coursework.

- 1a: Social Studies courses required for graduation
- 1b: Mastery level score on a Social Studies Regents Exam
- 1c: Proficiency level score on a Social Studies Regents Exam
- 1d: Proficiency in an advanced Social Studies course

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# 1e. Research Project (1.0)

- Can be a short-term project that may be connected to a classroom project or an extra-curricular organization

# RESEARCH PROJECT IDEAS

- https://www.econedlink.org/resources/collection/election-economics/
  - Ex: Income Inequality with research-based extension activity
- https://novelnewyork.org/databases.php
  - Ex: Opposing Viewpoints- Big Tech Monopolies
- http://www.archives.nysed.gov/education/primary-source-sets-social-change
  - Ex: Social Change Inquiry: Latinos in New York
- A Political Science Guide: What is a Policy Paper? (2017). https://politicalscienceguide.com/home/policy-paper/

# 2a. Civics Project (1.5)

- Demonstrates civics knowledge, skills, actions, and mindsets
- Can be a short-term project that may be connected to a classroom project or an extra-curricular organization
- Pairs easily with the .5 credit elective or extra curricular activity


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# CIVIC PARTICIPATION PROJECT IDEAS

- Consider using an inquiry as a springboard for a civics project.
  - 12th grade Government Inquiries in the NYSED Social Studies Tool Kit.
    - Federalism
    - First Amendment
    - Voting
    - Political Parties
    - Campaign Finance
    - Affordable Care Act

# 2b. Service Learning Project (1)

- Includes a minimum of 25 hours of demonstrated service to the community
- Includes a reflective essay/presentation/product

- NOTE: Service learning is NOT community service.  It is tied to the curriculum and the student has researched and identified a need.


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# Service Learning Project - Resources

National Youth Leadership Council, Service Learning, *www.nylc.org/standards*, *www.nylc.org/objects/publications/StandardsResearch.pdf"*

New York City Department of Education, Service Learning Resources, https://infohub.nyced.org/in-our-schools/programs/experiential-learning/service-in-schools/service-learning-opportunities-and-resources

Service learning is a graduation requirement in Maryland. Information about Maryland's service learning requirement, http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Service-Learning/par.aspx

# 2c. Civic Experiences II: Elective Courses, Extra-Curricular Activities and Work Based Learning(.5)

For an elective course or extra-curricular activity to count towards the Civics Readiness Seal, the course must promote **civic engagement**.

**Civic Engagement** is defined as the following:

> ***Working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills and actions, mindsets and experiences necessary to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in community, through both political and non-political processes.*** (NYSED)

# 2c. Elective Courses/Extra Curricular Activity/Work Based Learning (.50)

## What is an Application of Knowledge Essay/Presentation/Product?

The purpose of the Application of Knowledge is to provide students the opportunity to communicate the ways in which the various experiences and activities in the elective course have impacted their civic knowledge, skills, and mindsets.

The culminating Application of Knowledge task must address the following:

- Civic Experiences: What did you do?
- Civic Knowledge: What civic knowledge did you gain?
- Civic Skills, Actions and Mindsets: How did this experience change you?

# Civics Capstone (4.0)

## Flexible process that asks students to. . .

- Identify and Research an Issue
- Analyze and Develop Strategies and Solutions
- Take **informed action** on an issue
- Receive support + formative feedback from mentor(s), advisor(s), teacher(s)
- **Present** to the School Committee (SC) or community forum
- Reflect on the outcome of the Capstone project

Depending on implementation model may take anywhere from 2 to 4 quarters to complete.


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# What are the Essential Elements of a Civics Capstone Project?

1. Examine community
2. Identify Issues
3. Conduct Research
4. Analysis
5. Develop Strategies and Solutions
6. Take Informed Action
7. Communicate
8. Reflection

Based on the New York State Social Studies Practices, Grades 9-12, the New York State Performance Level Descriptors for the Global History & Geography II and the U.S. History & Government Regents exam, the NYSED Definition of Civic Readiness, and the American Association of Colleges and University VALUE Rubric for Civic Engagement.

# CAPSTONE OR CIVIC PROJECTS?

| H.S. Civic Projects | Both | H.S. Capstone Project |
|---|---|---|
| Worth 1.5 points<br>Can be done more than once<br>Issue may be identified<br>By the teacher<br>Data may be gathered by the teacher<br>More likely to be done in a group | Civic Issues-based<br>Analyze data<br>Recommend solutions<br>Communicate<br>Reflection<br>Criteria based on the Civic Readiness Definition | Worth 4 points (HS)<br>Done only once<br>Student(s) identifies issue<br>Student(s) gathers data<br>Student(s) take informed action<br>Can be done by individuals or in a small group |

# Middle School Capstone Project

The Basics:

- Teacher guidance is very important at the MS level
- Projects can be done in 7th grade or 8th grade
- Cooperative learning options are determined by the school
- Projects should take an inquiry approach

# Middle School Capstone Project

After the completion of their research students develop an informed action plan

**Option A**

Students develop an action plan that focuses on how individuals can make a difference with the chosen problem or issue. After developing the plan, students should complete service hours as determined by the school.

**Option B**

Detailed Action Plan: Students develop a detailed action plan that includes:

- Analysis of research and data to determine the impact of the issue on the community.
- Evaluate a number of possible solutions to address the problem.
- Recommend one strategy and develop a detailed plan to implement that strategy.

# Next Steps

Dos

1. Build awareness with faculty and administrators/ find your early adopters

2. Start to build your routes to the Seal
    1. Compare what you offer in your school against the Seal requirements
    2. Develop assignments and rubrics that can be integrated into current courses/extracurricular activities

3. Begin a Tracking system to manage completion of requirements

Don’ts

1. Give blanket credit for an ELA book report as a Civics Research project– approved projects must build civic agency
2. Count passive observance of meetings as civic experiences- these can be part of a civics project but are not stand-alone experiences that qualify
3. Try to do it all at once. No school is expected to offer every option to every student.

# OFFICE OF STATE ASSESSMENT, U.S. FRAMEWORK BASED REGENTS EXAM UPDATES

- The U.S. Framework based Regents Exam will be administered on Wednesday, June 1st
- There will be no U.S. Regents offered in January 2022. Exemptions will be granted to qualified students for the January U.S. Regents Exam.
- Comprehensive information about the U.S. Regents can be found in our Educator's Guide to the U.S. Framework Based Regents Exam.

# Comparing Formats: Global II and New US

| Global II Design | New US Design |
|---|---|
| 28 stimulus-based multiple-choice questions | 28 stimulus-based multiple-choice questions |
| 2 sets of short-answer CRQs (7 total questions) | 2 short essays |
| 1 Enduring Issues essay | 1 Civic Literacy Essay w/ 6 documents & 6 open-ended questions |

# Comparing formats: Global II and new US

| Global II Design |
| --- |
| • 28 Stimulus-Based Multiple-Choice Questions<br>• 2 Sets of Short-Answer CRQs (7 total questions)<br>• 1 Enduring Issues Essay |

| New US Design |
| --- |
| • 28 Stimulus-Based Multiple-Choice Questions<br>• 2 Short Essays<br>• 1 Civic Literacy Essay w/ Scaffold Questions |

# Further questions or comments?

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