



Civic Readiness Initiative and The Seal of Civic Readiness Pilot Update

May 2021



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

CIVIC READINESS INITIATIVE



January 2020 – The Board was presented with the work of the Civic Readiness Task Force and its recommendations:

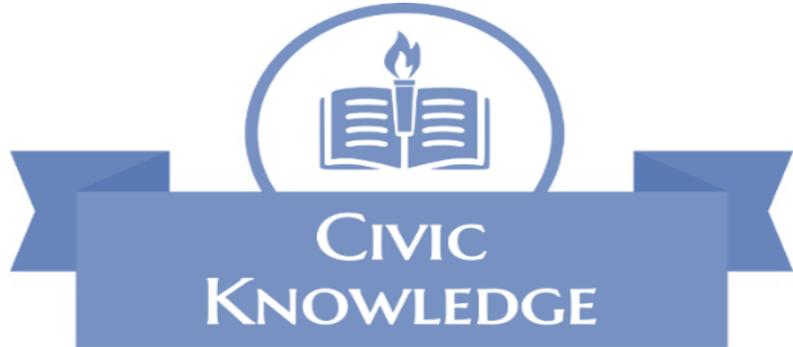
- Definition of Civic Readiness
- Seal of Civic Readiness as a + 1 Pathway acknowledging students that demonstrate both Civic Knowledge and Civic Engagement
- Capstone

2020-21 – The Department worked with stakeholders and Task Force members to develop guidelines for the Seal of Civic Readiness

Today's presentation will:

- Provide details on the upcoming Seal of Civic Readiness Pilot
- Propose regulatory changes to create a +1 pathway for Seal recipients

SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS EXPECTATIONS



Demonstrate a fundamental and functional knowledge of:

- Government
- Law
- History
- Geography
- Culture
- Current Events
- Economics

This will include knowledge of historic and current inequities within our social, governmental and economic systems.



- Complete a civic readiness capstone or civic engagement project;
- Engage in service-learning;
- Engage in civil discourse around controversial issues;
- Engage with news and digital tools,
- Participate in civic-centered activities;
- Engage with local officials and government institutions: providing public comment to a government agency, or meeting with public and elected officials.

Proposed Requirements for the Seal of Civic Readiness

Civic Knowledge	Pts.	Civic Participation	Pts.
4 Credits of Social Studies	1	High School Civics Project	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 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

RATIONALE FOR SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS PILOT 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



Empower Students

- Empower and engage students by providing more opportunities for meaningful civic engagement
- Create opportunity to discuss how they can be civically engaged
- Earn credit toward a diploma for evidence of civic readiness

Improve Society

- Strengthen our representative democracy by encouraging lifelong civic participation

Incentivize Schools

- Incentivize a robust K-12 Civics Education by adding points on the College, Career & Civic Readiness (CCCRI) Index

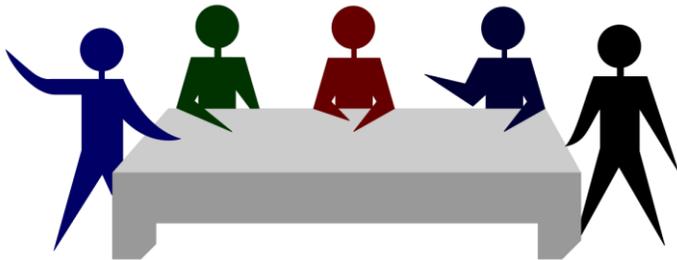
WHERE ARE WE NOW AND NEXT STEPS

Seal of Civic Readiness Pilot for the 2021-2022 School Year:

- Interested schools have completed an application to participate in the pilot process.
- Pending Board approval, selected schools will be notified of their participation by May 31, 2021.
- The Civic Readiness Task Force and NYSED staff will support and monitor pilot districts throughout the school year including virtual site visits and onsite technical assistance to the extent practicable.
- Student work product from across the state will be analyzed and added to the Manual for the Seal of Civic Readiness to provide further guidance to interested schools.
- The Task Force will evaluate the current point system on the Criteria for the Seal of Civic Readiness and recommend to SED any appropriate changes or additions if needed.



INITIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF PILOT SCHOOLS



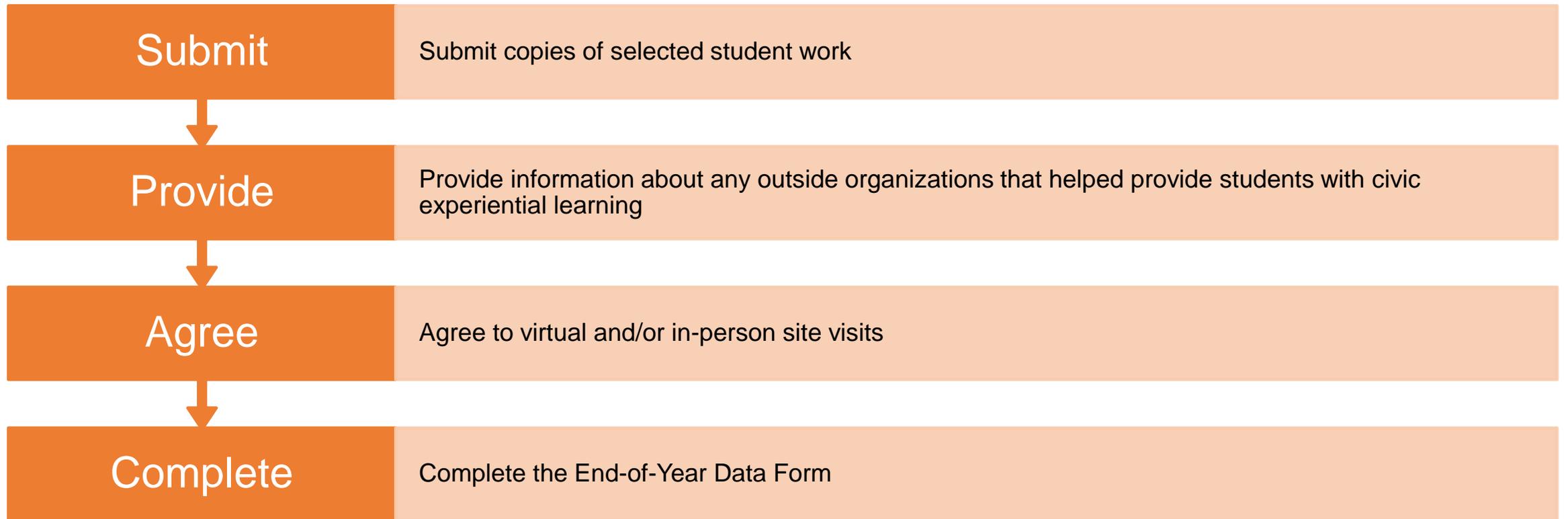
Form a Seal of Civic Readiness Committee that includes:

- One faculty member serving as the main contact with NYSED to collect data about school offerings and submit copies of student work back to NYSED
- One School Counselor OR other staff who will track student progress toward earning the Seal
- One Social Studies Teacher

Identify, develop and implement options for students to complete the Seal as outlined in the NYSED draft manual

Develop a plan for reviewing student submissions

LONG-TERM RESPONSIBILITIES OF PILOT SCHOOLS



NYSED SUPPORT FOR PILOT SCHOOLS



- NYSED Staff will continue to provide resources and professional development to educators.
- The Civic Readiness Task Force will monitor the progress of pilot schools collecting and publishing additional examples of Civics Projects and Civic Capstone Projects.
- When the pilot is complete, the Task Force will analyze the results and make recommendations.

CIVIC READINESS IS PART OF THE REGENTS' BROADER INITIATIVES

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In a diverse society, governed by a constitution and laws that provide for individual rights, liberty, justice, and equality under the law, civic engagement will involve exposure to a diversity of people and perspectives. Respect for and commitment to the rights of others, informed and thoughtful deliberation about societal, political and governmental issues, consistent with the constitution, the law, and the rights of others, is a responsibility of all citizens.

Social Emotional Learning

Civic engagement encourages students to explore issues in the broader community from various perspectives, helping them to reflect upon their own ideas and opinions, building understanding of themselves, their aspirations, and consideration of the diverse people and perspectives in the larger community.

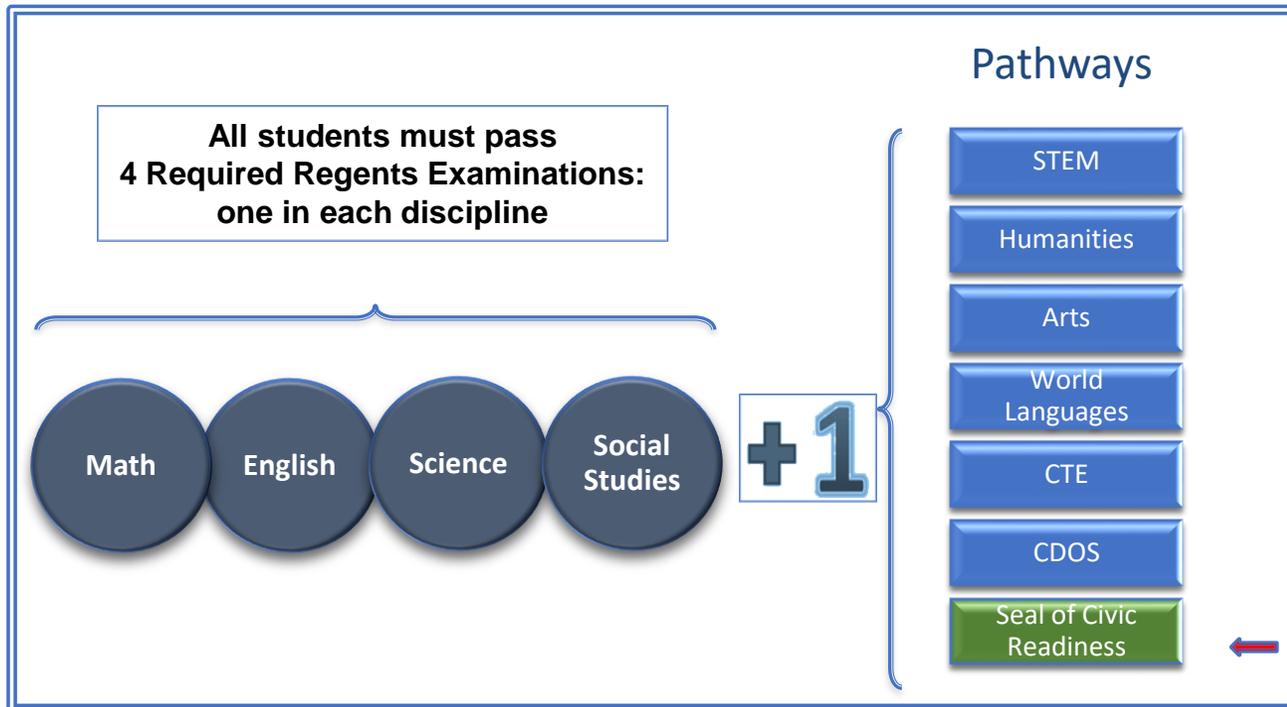
Culturally Responsive & Sustaining Education

Effective and culturally competent civics education is a vital tool in engaging youth in local politics and ensuring their sustained participation to collectively strengthen our local and national democracy. (Generation Citizen – July 2020)

Financial Literacy

Development of financial literacy is integral to student understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and participation in the economic and social lives of their communities. This includes understanding, assuming and fulfilling responsibility for the financial support of oneself, one's family and financial obligations to the larger community.

PROPOSED REVISION TO THE 4+1 PATHWAY REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE THE SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS



Allow schools participating in the pilot to offer the Seal of Civic Readiness to their students

Students who complete the Seal earn a +1 pathway toward meeting their diploma requirements

QUESTIONS?

