

The image features a large, semi-transparent seal of the New York State Department of Education. The seal is circular and contains the text "SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS" at the top, "THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK" around the inner border, and "THE NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT" around the outer border. In the center of the seal is the Great Seal of the State of New York, which depicts two female figures holding a shield with a landscape scene, topped by an eagle with wings spread. A banner below the shield reads "EXCELSIOR". The background of the entire image is a solid blue color, with two yellow L-shaped corner brackets on the left and right sides.

The New York State Seal of Civic Readiness

What is the Seal of Civic Readiness (SCR)?

The New York State Seal of Civic Readiness (NYSSCR) is a formal recognition that a student has demonstrated the civic knowledge, skills, mindsets, and experiences necessary to become an actively engaged citizen.

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.

Why was the SCR Initiative Introduced?

- Voluntary participation in civic life has diminished in recent years.
- Voter turnout rates in the US are among the lowest in the world.
- Political polarization has increased in recent years.
- The world has become increasingly interdependent through globalization demanding broader knowledge of global issues and more awareness of how to act individually.
- As diversity increases, the need for positive social interactions across differences becomes more and more important.

How will our students and our district benefit from the SCR?

- Empowers students to make informed decisions for the public good as members of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.
- Develops civic knowledge and skills which are needed for a democratic society to flourish.
- Learn how to identify and address problems in the school and community.
- Learn how to demonstrate respect for the rights of others, respectfully disagree with other viewpoints, and provide evidence for a counterargument.
- Strengthens the relationships of schools and students with parents, families, civic leaders, organizations, and community partners.

How the SCR Initiative Works

To earn the Seal of Civic Readiness, a student must earn a total of six points from a set of criteria outlined by New York State. This includes:

- Competency/Mastery on Social Studies Regents Exams
- Completed research projects related to civic knowledge and participation
- Successful completion of Social Studies elective courses
- Participation in specified extracurricular activities
- Completion of a Capstone Project

Students have options as to how they will earn the points. We have designed our program to give as many students as possible the ability to earn the SCR.

Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in Civic Knowledge					Criteria for Demonstrating Civic Participation				
	Points Possible	Points Earned	Date (s) Earned	SCR Committee Approval		Points Possible	Points Earned	Date (s) Earned	SCR Committee Approval
1a. Four (4) Social Studies courses required for graduation	1				2a. Civic Skills, Actions, and Mindsets Complete a high school civic project	1.5*			
1b. Social Studies Regents Exams - Mastery level (85+) Exam Scores: Global History & Geography Regents ____ United States History Regents ____	1.5*				2b. Civic Experiences Area I Complete a service learning project	1*			
1c. Social Studies Regents Exams - Proficiency Level (65+)** Exam Scores: Global History & Geography Regents ____ United States History Regents ____	1*				2c. Civic Experiences Area II Demonstrate proficiency in an elective course that promotes civic engagement Course(s):	.50*			
1d. Advanced Social Studies Courses List courses below:	.5*				2d. Civic Experiences Area III Participate in an extra-curricular program, or work-based learning experience	.50*			
1e. Research Project	1				2e. Middle School Capstone Project (<i>under development</i>)	1*			
can be earned multiple times					2f. High School Capstone Project	4			
Points Earned					Points Earned				
(sample completed charts)									Total Points Earned:

Our Process

Over the past two years, several members of the High School Social Studies Department have been working to build our SCR program and prepare for its implementation.

- Professional Development about the SCR Initiative and the application process.
- Curriculum development hours over the summer to collaborate and develop the SCR program.
- Completion of the Application to New York State (submitting next month).

Our Process

- Worked with Guidance Department Administrative Assistant (Tiffany Loughrey) to develop a database for tracking student progress in earning points.
- Developed civic knowledge lessons and research projects for all grade levels.
- Expanded options for Social Studies Electives including a course to facilitate the Capstone Project for students who wish to complete this component (Modern Issues).

What's Next for the SCR Program

- Submit application to New York State for approval of program with the goal of awarding the first SCRs to the Class of 2025.
- Additional members are needed for the SCR Committee. The committee will be responsible for evaluating student projects, monitoring the program's success, and determining if and when changes will be made to the program.
- Continue to track ALL students' progress and inform students about their potential to receive the SCR; our goal is to award the Seal to as many students as possible.
- Build the program beyond the high school to include other grade levels and expand the overall civic education of our students.

How The BOE Can Support the SCR Program

- Continued support for professional development and curriculum hours
- Support the addition of new courses that will align with the goals of the program
- Understand that this program is developing, and will continue to develop, and there may be unforeseen needs for its success
- Facilitate communication with the broader community to build recognition of our efforts, to connect students with community resources, and to foster a sense of community involvement in the program
- Provide opportunities and resources to broaden civic education in our district

Questions from the Board
