

Seal of Civic Readiness Update

Presentation to the Board of Regents

May 2022



Seal of Civic Readiness +1 Pathway

Strongly rooted in diversity, equity, and inclusivity

Builds civic agency by developing students' abilities across lines of difference and elevating historically marginalized voices

Recognizes the value of allowing students to have a choice, voice, and ownership in their learning

Empowers students to productively advocate for equitable patterns and practices in society

Prepares students to become positive agents of social change and participate in authentic actions and experiences



Criteria for the Seal of Civic Readiness

The Seal is earned through a flexible points-based system. Students must earn points in both Civic Knowledge and Civic Participation.

Civic Knowledge

Demonstrate a fundamental and functional knowledge of government, law, history, geography, culture, economics, and current events.



Civic Participation

Participate in developmentally appropriate civic experiences that engage students in relevant experiences and include students as active participants.







The Seal of Civic Readiness Pilot 2021-2022 School Year

117 High Schools across New York State participated.

25 Regional Coordinators oversaw the programs.

- BOCES Staff and Curriculum Development Network representatives
- Big 5 district representatives
- Private and Charter School representatives

Approximately 8,000 students will receive the Seal of Civic Readiness in June 2022.



Greater Capital District Region

Regional Coordinator

 Lisa Kissinger, Social Studies Department Chair Shenendehowa Schools

Pilot School Principal

 George Niesz, Principal Greenwich High School

Pilot Student

 Aidan McPhail, 12th grade, Greenwich High School



New York City Department of Education

Regional Coordinator

Jenna Ryall, Director Civics for All

Pilot School Principal

Marc Pascente, Principal Grover Cleveland High School

Pilot Student

 Shawn Anderson, 12th grade Grover Cleveland High School



Key Takeaways from the Pilot

- Teacher involvement and engagement was critical
- Connections with outside organizations led to increased meaning for students
- Successful in districts of all types
- Almost 8,000 students are candidates

Students were able to research an area of interest (often aligned to their own passions) in an effort to engage in solutionary work, and take informed action. Within this work we are focusing on fostering a skill set in students that transcends curriculum, that will help students better navigate their world outside of the confines of their K-12 school experience.

- Mitchell Bickman, K-12 Director of Social Studies, Oceanside HS



Next Steps



The Seal of Civic Readiness +1 Pathway is available to all NYS High Schools in the 2022-2023 school year.



Application is currently available through the NYSED Business Portal and is due August 1, 2022.





Questions?