



SOCIAL STUDIES AND CIVIC READINESS INITIATIVE

THE OFFICE OF CURRICULUM SERVICES

# SCDN SOCIAL STUDIES FRAMEWORK

MAY 12, 2020



New York State  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

## UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT

- The first administration of Framework based United States History and Government Exam will be June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021
- The “old” Regents exam for United States History and Government will be given in January 2021 and June 2021
- The Global History and Geography Regents exam will only be the Framework based version from January 2021 forward.
- [NYSED Office of NY State Assessment Memo on Social Studies Regents Exams](#)

UPDATES FROM THE  
ENACTED 2020-2021 BUDGET UPDATE FOR CIVICS

- \$1 million for the development of a statewide curriculum on Civic Education and Values, Shared History of Diversity and the Role of Religious Freedom in Our Country

THE CIVIC READINESS INITIATIVE NEXT STEPS:

- [NYSED Civic Readiness Initiative Survey](#)
- [emscurric@nysed.gov](mailto:emscurric@nysed.gov)





**Civic Readiness-** 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.



**Civic Learning-** students demonstrate fundamental knowledge of Social Studies, engage in relevant experiences that include students as active participants and develop an understanding of self as part of and responsible to larger social groups



**Civil Rights-** Civil rights are an expansive and significant set of rights that are designed to protect individuals from unfair treatment; they are the rights of individuals to receive equal treatment (and to be free from unfair treatment or discrimination) in a number of settings -- including education, employment, housing, public accommodations, and more -- and based on certain legally-protected characteristics.



**Civic Engagement-** 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.

# Civic Readiness the ESSA Plan and Statewide Initiatives

ESSA Plan	Connection to Civic Readiness
Civic Readiness Index	Empower students to become active, engaged civic participants in our multicultural democracy
Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education	Provide opportunities to learn about power and privilege and empower learners to be agents of positive social change
Equity	Civic education is a means to a more equitable, more just democracy responsive to the diverse realities of our students
Social Emotional Learning (SEL)	Self and Social Awareness – the ability to recognize how thoughts, feelings, and actions are interconnected; and the ability to take the perspective of and have respect for those with different backgrounds or cultures are required of civically minded citizens
Mental Health Literacy	Sense of self esteem and confidence Ability to make a contribution to one's community

**PROPOSED CIVIC READINESS DEFINITION:  
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**



Demonstrate a fundamental and functional knowledge of government, law, history, geography, culture, economics, and current events. These may include inequities within our democratic system at the federal, state and local level. Students should know how to apply this knowledge to different circumstances and settings.



Demonstrate a broad array of critical analytic, verbal, communication, media literacy and other skills and participate in a wide variety of actions. Students should practice such actions both inside and outside of school on a regular basis.



Demonstrate the mindset of a participant in a democratic society. A civic mindset is a commitment to democratic interpersonal and intrapersonal values, virtues, attitudes, and beliefs and informed actions that promote and facilitate meaningful participation in civic life. It is an understanding of self as part of and responsible to larger social groups.



Participate in developmentally appropriate civic experiences. Civic readiness should be developed in a variety of settings and ways— inside and outside of the classroom, across content areas, and for multiple purposes. Civic Readiness should be promoted by engaging students in relevant experiences that include students as active participants.

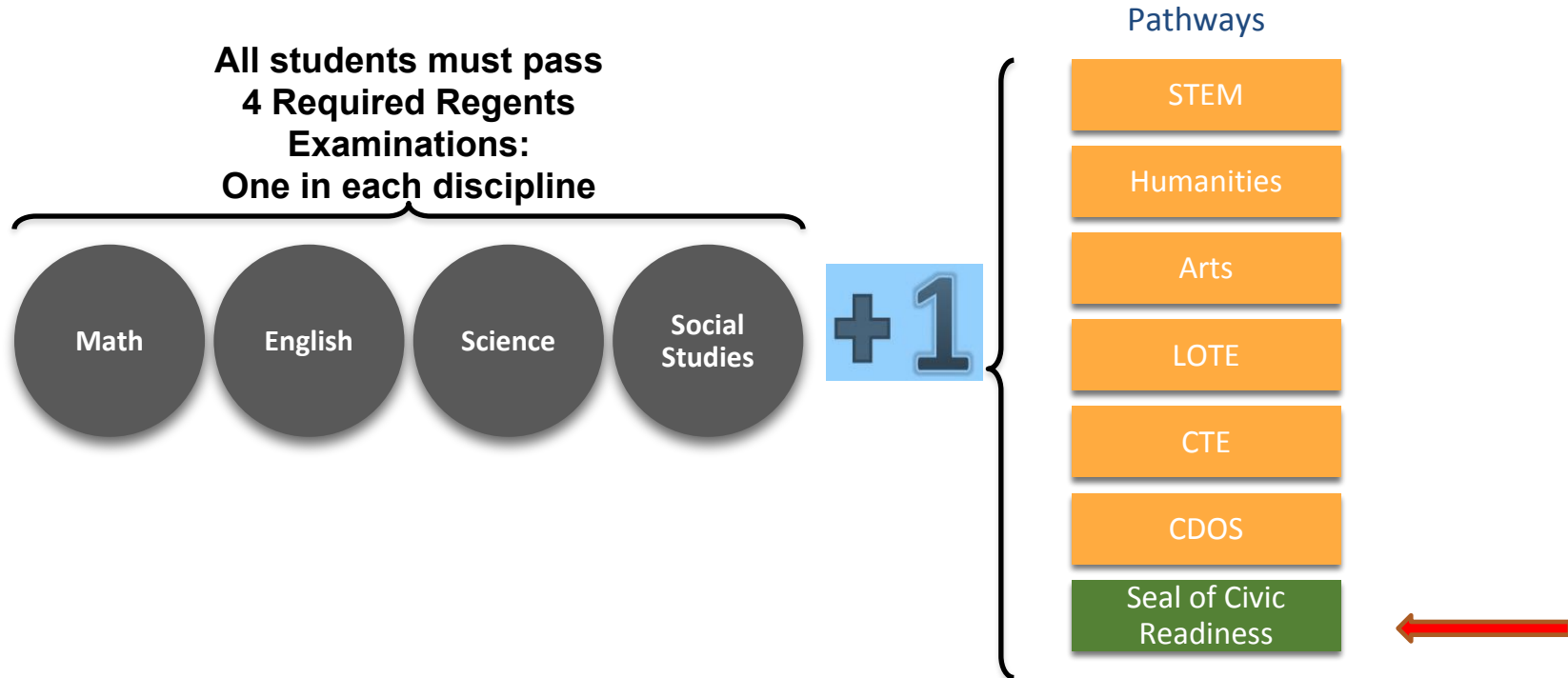
# CIVICS CAPSTONE PROJECT

## **In a Civic Readiness Capstone project, students will:**

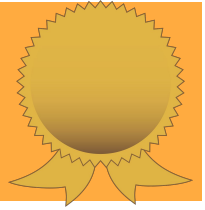
- Identify a civic issue (problem) facing them, their school, or their community
- Analyze a civic issue (problem), evaluate alternative solutions, design and/or execute a solution for this problem.
- Take informed action to address the civic issue.



# The Seal of Civic Readiness could be used as a Humanities Pathway or a stand alone seal for students who choose a different pathway.



# THE PROPOSED SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS



- I. Affirms NYSED's commitment to strengthening civics education
- II. Incentivizes districts and students to participate in meaningful civic engagement projects
- III. Can be used as a +I Pathway
- IV. Can be used as a stand alone seal
- V. Students earn the seal by earning points on a menu of options that reflect civic knowledge and civic experiences.

### Seal Requirements:

The seal would required students to earn points in two areas; Civic Knowledge and Civic Participation. **Please note, an asterisk indicated students can earn these points more than once.**

Civic Knowledge	Pts.	Civic Participation	Pts.
4 Credits of Social Studies	1	Culminating High School Civic Project	1.5
Mastery level on Social Studies Regents	1.5*	Service Learning Project (minimum 25 hours) and reflective civic learning essay	1*
Social Studies Regents Exams Proficiency Level	1*	Mastery level in an elective course the 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 application of knowledge essay	.5*
		Civics Capstone Project	4

WHERE WE ARE NOW:

- We will keep the public survey open to collect data and feedback on the Civic Readiness Initiative.
- We will create one page documents to explain Civic Readiness for target audiences (elementary, middle, high, district level administration)
- Create Webinars and Recorded PowerPoints to build capacity
- The Seal of Civic Readiness Pilot will begin in September 2021