Seal of Civics Literacy

Tolleson Union High School District

The Seal of Civics Literacy recognizes high school students who achieve a high level of proficiency in the study of civics. Students involved in school programs like National Honor Society, Student Government, Jobs for Arizona Graduates, HOSA, West-Mec and Future Business Leaders of America could be well-aligned for this diploma seal option.

Eligibility/Details:

- Students must complete all requirements during grades 9-12 (passage of the Arizona Civics Exam can occur in grades 7/8).
- Students must complete all social studies courses with an overall GPA of 3.0 out of a 4.0 scale.
- Students must obtain a passing score of 70% on the Arizona State Civics Test. (If graduating in 2024 or 2025, students only need to pass with a 60%)
- Students must complete activities from each of the following 3 categories:

Category One: Civics Learning

- Students must complete or participate in at least three approved civics learning programs or institutes that specifically focus on civics content and learning.
- This must be other than a traditional senior government course. AP Government is an acceptable program with a score of 3 or above, but it is not required.
- Some potential programs and institutions include: Participation in civics summer institutes/intensive programs, participation in school-sponsored extracurricular civics-based activities and online/in-person courses focused on civics education (other than the traditional government course).
- Students are not required to participate in an institution or program that requires travel.

Any student interested in pursuing an Arizona Department of Education Seal of Civics Literacy on their diploma should meet with their school counselor.

Seal of Civics Literacy

Tolleson Union High School District

Category Two: Civics Engagement:

Students must participate in 30 hours of civic engagement activities with 10 of these hours dedicated to civics specific activities.

- Civic specific (engagement) activities are defined as activities:
  A. Where students engage with community members (virtually or in person) to identify a cause/issue in the community, state, or nation.
  B. That must be validated by a supervisor or leader.
  C. Where students are practicing civics and participating in civics (demonstrating their civic knowledge).
  D. Are completed with a public agency or civics organization.
  E. That occurs outside of class time.
- Community service activities are defined as:
  A. Unpaid work performed for the benefit and betterment of the community.
  B. Working with a credible organization or group (not affiliated with the family).
  C. That are validated by a supervisor or leader.
  D. Can be completed based on personal interests and preference.

- *If a civic engagement activity is not on the list but meets the requirements, it is approved. There is such a variety of ways for students to participate in civic engagement, the list is practically endless!*
- *Civics engagement activities can also be completed through Category 1 programs/groups. For example: A student may be in the Student Government which counts as category 1 and the student government decides to host a get-out-the-vote campaign on campus which counts as category 2.*

Category Three: Written Reflection

- Participating students must complete a written reflection on their experiences earning the Arizona State Seal of Civics Literacy.
- Information on writing prompts, alignment to the standards and the rubric can be found at the Arizona Department of Education website.
- Districts/schools are responsible for designing the process for assigning and collecting the written reflection.