

Civic Engagement Diploma Seal

The state of Georgia offers students the opportunity to earn a Civic Engagement seal on their diploma for participating in civic engagement activities throughout their high school career.

In order to qualify for the seal, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Satisfy the State of Georgia **Social Studies requirements** to earn a HS diploma.
 2. Take and pass the **American Government Basic Skills Test**—56 questions aligned with the American Government/Civics Georgia Standards of Excellence. Students can take the test multiple times until receiving a score of 70%. This will be administered by Mrs. Angel (Social Studies Dept. Chair)

Students will need to make an appointment with Mrs. Angel to take the test before 3/13/20
 3. Complete **50 hours of voluntary participation in community service** or extracurricular activities during the student's high school career (*participation can be counted starting in the 9th grade. Students should keep a record of their activities and hours starting as early as possible.*)
 - Of the required **50 service hours**, a minimum of **15 hours** must be obtained participating in **civic engagement activities**. Examples: attending a city council, county commission, and/or school board meeting; serving as a legislative page or intern; participating in a political campaign; being active in community, neighborhood, and/or church organization leadership and decision-making activities; working with voter registration drives; participating in Model UN, Mock Trial, Youth Assembly, Boys/Girls State, Rho Kappa, etc. (any preparation time for these type of simulations can count toward the hours requirement also.) (This list is not exhaustive.)
 - The **additional 35 volunteer hours** may be obtained through participation in charitable or service-based organizations or school sponsored extracurricular activities. For example, volunteering at a shelter or food drive, boy/girl scout activities, working with special needs children, working with community service with school, community, and/or church clubs. (This is not an exhaustive list.)
 - Graduating students can count previous volunteer experiences and civic engagement participation accumulated from their 9th to 12th grade years to meet service hour eligibility requirements.
- ***NOTE: any student who enlists in the U.S. military prior to graduation will be deemed to meet criteria 3.*
4. Students must present a **powerpoint presentation or capstone portfolio** on the knowledge gained in Social Studies courses and activities listed above. See the back for powerpoint/portfolio Instructions.

Graduating seniors must see Mrs. Angel, in room 4303, during 4th or 5th period by Friday, March 6, 2020 if you are planning on qualifying and have met the criteria for the Civic Engagement seal, or if you have questions. You may contact Mrs. Angel at angel@fultonschools.org

Civic Engagement Diploma Seal Capstone – PowerPoint Presentation

Slide 1: Name; introduction of yourself -- overview of who you are, where you're going next, etc.

Slide 2: A list of the Social Studies courses you've taken 9th – 12th

Slides 3+: An overview of your 35 hours of community service and what you gained from the experiences

Slides 4+: An overview of your 15 hours of civic engagement activities and what you gained from the experiences

Last Slide: Summary of how your civic and volunteer activities have impacted your life and how you think your time has impacted your community—school, town, larger community, state, etc. How you plan to continue in the future...

Bullet points/talking points should be used on the slides to help you talk and “converse” with the committee. Be prepared to answer questions from the committee. 😊

****Pictures on the slides should be included to enhance your presentation*

Length: 10 – 15 min.

Checklist:

- Complete all required Social Studies classes
- Pass the American Government Basic Skills Test with a 70% or above
- Complete minimum of 15 hours of civic engagement activities
- Complete minimum of 35 hours of volunteer service
- Complete and present a capstone powerpoint/portfolio to the Civic Engagement committee