

NYS CIVIC READINESS INITIATIVE

How is Rye Neck MS/HS preparing our students for the increased and necessary emphasis on Civic Readiness?

CONTEXT:
WHY CIVIC
READINESS?

RYE NECK UFSD MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Rye Neck School Community is to develop active, critical-thinking, creative, responsible citizens with high values, morals and ethics. These citizens will respect, accept and appreciate others in a multicultural world and be committed to lifelong academic and personal achievement in a supportive learning environment. Students will acquire a suitable educational foundation, mastery of the English language and analytical skills which will help them deal with challenges in their personal and professional lives.

**NYS definition of Civic Readiness:
“...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.”**

Critical- Thinking

Local/Global
Citizenship

Adaptive/Resilient
Mindset

Supportive Learning
Environment

DOMAINS OF CIVIC READINESS:

1. Curricular Knowledge
 - a. 9-12 curriculum
2. Research Skills
 - a. 9-12 Multi-tiered Research Assignments
3. 11th Grade US History and Government and 12th Grade Participation in Government
 - a. 11th Civic Issue Research Paper
 - b. 12th grade Policy Research Assignments
4. Social Studies related Extracurricular activities
 - a. Mock Trial, Model UN, Student Senate, Senior Internship
 - b. Voting

1



CIVIC
KNOWLEDGE

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.

2



CIVIC SKILLS
& ACTIONS

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.

3



CIVIC
MINDSETS

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.

4



CIVIC
EXPERIENCES

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.



HOW DOES A STUDENT
EARN THE SEAL OF
CIVIC READINESS?

Criteria for the Seal of Civic Readiness

In order to obtain the Seal of Civic Readiness, a student must complete all the requirements for a New York State local or Regents diploma and earn a total of six points with at least two points in Civic Knowledge and at least two points in Civic Participation. Students may also earn points by completing a middle school Capstone project or a high school Capstone project.

Civic Knowledge	Pts.	Civic Participation	Pts.
4 Credits of social studies	1	High School Civics Project (limit two times during grades 9-12)	1.5
Mastery level on Social Studies Regents Exam	1.5*	Service-Learning Project (minimum 25 hours) and reflective civic learning essay/presentation/product	1*
Proficiency level on Social Studies Regents Exam	1*	Proficiency level in an elective course that promotes civic engagement	.5*
Advanced social studies course(s)	.5*	Middle School Capstone Project (Grades 7 and 8 are only eligible for this point)	1
Research Project	1	Extra-curricular participation or work-based learning experience (minimum 40 hours) and an essay/presentation/product	.5*
		Civics Capstone Project	4

*Students may receive these points more than once.

How do we currently enable students to qualify for the seal in the 2023-2024 school year?

- Social Studies required for four years in HS
- Research Project (each year 9th-11th grade)
- HS Civics Project 11th grade US History
- SS Electives
- Extracurriculars

CHANGES

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT
FROM THE STATE AND
HOW CAN WE ADAPT?

WHAT DETERMINATIONS WILL THE STATE MAKE CONCERNING CIVICS?



Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures

November 2023: The Blue Ribbon Commission made 12 recommendations concerning graduation requirements:

1. Option to add seals (one civic seal) to diploma
2. Civic responsibility, cultural competence, writing skills for real-world scenarios

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS IN SOCIAL STUDIES:

HOW ARE WE PROMOTING CRITICAL THINKING AND CITIZENSHIP GRADES 6-12?

Goal: Evaluate and retool
our research methodology

Factors:

- ★ COVID
- ★ Technological changes
- ★ Generational skills
- ★ AI tools

How did we upgrade our research skills to
reflect the Civics changes?

- ❑ Emphasis on evaluating websites and internet material
 - ❑ Annotated Bibliography
- ❑ Organization of information
 - ❑ Noodletools
- ❑ Focus on sourcing
 - ❑ Giving credit with proper citation to all sources
- ❑ Partnership with our Librarian

FUTURE CHANGES
WHAT ARE WE
CURRENTLY WORKING
ON FOR NEXT YEAR?

CIVIC READINESS CAPSTONE PROJECT



1. Identify an issue in our local community/state/country
2. Problem solve that issue by researching the factors that caused this to continue to be an issue
3. Action plan - gather data, develop solutions, communicate solutions in the form of a project/presentation
4. Reflect on the process and evaluate the research methods

Goals:

- ❑ Develop the criteria for the Capstone project with evaluative rubrics and reflection components for the 2024-2025 school year
- ❑ Integrate the project with existing course offerings

THE SOCIAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT
THANKS YOU!