

# Civic Engagement Diploma Seal

2024-2025 School Year



The Georgia Department of Education offers a Civic Engagement Seal that is affixed to graduating seniors' diplomas for their Social Studies coursework, knowledge of American Government, community service, and civic engagement activities. It resembles the image above. Multiple Harrison students receive this award each year and we want to continue to grow and develop civic-minded graduates.

The seal application, service recording log, and rubric for the Capstone presentation can also be found on this website. Any 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student can begin working on this and recording their progress. You do not need to apply or express interest until your senior year. **Current seniors need to complete the service hours log and return it to Mr. Thompson in room 206 or by e-mail by March 10, 2025.** Once you get this to me, we will set up a time to take your citizenship test. You will do your presentation (see the rubric on this site) and we'll also set up a time for you to show it to me. You can come by room 206 to hand in your service log and we'll discuss the next steps. You can also e-mail it to Mr. Thompson at [Robert.Thompson@cobbk12.org](mailto:Robert.Thompson@cobbk12.org). Below is a summary of the requirements to earn the seal.

1. Pass your required Social Studies classes to graduate: World History, US History, and Government/Economics.
2. Pass the Government Basic Skills Test. Mr. Thompson will arrange a time for you to take this.
3. Application of Social Studies Knowledge--2 parts. (Enlisting in the US Military prior to graduation satisfies the requirements for parts A and B below.)
  - a. A: Accumulate 35 hours combined of community service, certain extracurricular activities with service hours, and certain approved Social Studies electives. You can use up to 3 social studies elective classes for 10 hours each as part of the 35 hours. See the application for more details.
  - b. B: Accumulate 15 hours of civic engagement activities: attending local government meetings, school board meetings, working the polls on election day, etc. Participation in extracurricular activities such as Mock Trial, Model UN, Debate, Rho Khappa National Social Studies Honors Society, etc., counts. See the application for more details.
4. Present a Capstone Presentation on what you've learned about civic engagement through your coursework and community service. Refer to the presentation rubric on the Social Studies website. Basically, you make a PowerPoint about what you've learned and present it to Mr. Thompson.