

International Skills Diploma Seal (ISDS)

What is the ISDS?

In today's global marketplace, it is important for students to acquire the interdisciplinary skills they need to be globally competent and competitive. The International Skills Diploma Seal is awarded to high school students their senior year who have completed an international education curriculum and have engaged in extracurricular activities and experiences that foster the achievement of global competencies. It serves as a signal to employers and higher education institutions that a student is prepared to participate in the global economy.

Who can earn the Seal?

Any student who completes the requirements can earn the ISDS. Most students are seniors when they finish the requirements, but it is very possible to finish them when you're a junior.

How do I earn the Seal?

Requirement 1: Take courses with a global focus or perspective (8 credits total). World language (at least 3 years of the same language and/or ESOL) and courses with an International Focus (at least 4 credits) such as international economics, world history, world geography, etc.

Requirement 2: Complete 20 hours of community service with a cross cultural or international focus. For example, help organize a supply drive to send to hurricane victims in Haiti, tutor ESOL students, tutor world language students in lower levels for free, provide translation services, etc. All hours will be verified by the ISDS coordinator.

Requirement 3: Participate in 4 extracurricular activities with a cross cultural or international focus. For example, Foreign Languages of Pope (FLOP), attendance at the Day of the Dead celebration at the Atlanta History Center, overseas travel with a cultural exchange component etc. All activities will need to be verified by the coordinator.

Requirement 4: Capstone Presentation

Part 1: Essay: Write an essay (guidelines will be provided) about your experience as a candidate for the ISDS.

Part 2: Capstone presentation: Using a trifold poster board, present your ISDS experience to a small review committee consisting of teachers, administrators, and/or community members.

What's a general timeline for earning the Seal?

Start ISDS requirements as a freshman if possible and continue to junior or senior year.

Senior year:

February: All requirements should be fulfilled.

March: Essay and Capstone Presentation.

Early April: Coordinator submits names of ISDS candidates to the Georgia DoE.

Graduation: ISDS recipients receive Seal on their diploma.

When do I get the Seal?

On your diploma, at graduation.

When you fill out college applications, you can state that you are a candidate for the ISDS, however you cannot state that you have earned it (unless you have finished all requirements during junior year).

What will the Seal do for me?

The ISDS is a federal initiative and is recognized by colleges, universities, and businesses all over the country. It shows them that you have a global focus, that you have an interest in the world at large, and that your viewpoint is wider than just your home area.