

Demonstrating Readiness

In addition to fulfilling curriculum requirements and earning the competency requirements, students also must show they are prepared for college or careers. Ohio law created 12 seals for students to demonstrate academic, technical and professional readiness for careers, college, the military or self-sustaining professions. Each seal allows students to demonstrate knowledge and skills essential for future success. Students will demonstrate readiness by earning at least two diploma seals, one of which must be state defined. Seals help students develop an array of critical skills that are valuable to them as they transition to the next steps after high school.

Awarding Diploma Seals

NEW State law specifies that districts and schools must attach or affix the diploma seals students earn to their diplomas and transcripts. The Department is working to identify a process and mechanism for attaching or affixing seals to diplomas and transcripts.

The Nine State Designed Seals

1. **College-Ready Seal** - Earn remediation-free scores on the ACT or SAT.
2. **Industry-Recognized Credential Seal** - Earn an approved industry-recognized credential that is aligned to a job considered in demand in this state and its regions. (More information is forthcoming from the ODE.)
3. **Military Enlistment Seal** - Provide evidence that a student has enlisted in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces; or Participate in an approved JROTC program. (More information is forthcoming from the ODE.)
4. **Citizenship Seal** – A student can: 1. Earn a score of proficient or higher on both the American history and American government end-of-course exams; 2. Earn a score that is at least equivalent to proficient on appropriate Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams; 3. Earn a final course grade that is equivalent to a “B” or higher in appropriate classes taken through the College Credit Plus program; or 4. Earn a final course grade that is equivalent to a “B” or higher in both an American History course and an American Government course.
5. **Science Seal** - A student can: 1. Earn a score of proficient or higher on the biology end-of-course exam; 2. Earn a score that is at least equivalent to proficient on appropriate Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams; or 3. Earn a final course grade that is equivalent to a “B” or higher in an appropriate class taken through the College Credit Plus program; or 4. Earn a final course grade that is equivalent to a “B” or higher in an Advanced Science course.
6. **OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal** – A student can: Meet the requirements and criteria established for the readiness seal, including demonstration of work-readiness and professional competencies.
7. **State Seal of Bi-literacy** – A student can: Meet the requirements and criteria, including proficiency requirements on assessments in a world language and English.

8. **Technology Seal** - A student can: 1. Earn a score that is at least equivalent to proficient on an appropriate Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam; 2. Earn a “B” or higher in an appropriate College Credit Plus technology course; or 3. Complete a technology course that meets criteria established by the Ohio Department of Education. A district or school is not required to offer a course that meets those guidelines.
9. **Honors Diploma Seal** – A student can: Earn one of six Honors Diplomas outlined below: 1. Academic Honor Diploma 2. International Baccalaureate Honors Diploma 3. Career-Tech Honors Diploma 4. STEM Honors Diploma 5. Arts Honors Diploma 6. Social Science and Civic Engagement Honors Diploma

10. **Fine and Performing Arts Seal (locally defined)** - Demonstrate skill in the fine or performing arts according to an evaluation aligned with guidelines adopted by the student’s local board of education or school governing authority.

- *Any four credits in the creative or performing arts, yearbook, video productions, or related on-line or independent study course work (subject to administrative approval) over four years of high school.*

11. **Community Service Seal (locally defined)** - Complete a community service project aligned with the guidelines adopted by the student’s local board of education or school governing authority.

- *60 approved hours (an average of 15 approved hours per year, pro-rated for class of 2023). Students should use the Community Service Seal Verification approval form, available in the office. The student is responsible for completing the Community Service Verification form, subject to administrative approval.*

12. **Certified Student Engagement Seal (locally defined)** - Participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs or student government to a meaningful extent, as determined by guidelines adopted by the student’s local board of education or school governing authority.

- *Participation in one or more extra-curricular activities during each of the four years of high school. Each yearly activity must involve 20 or more hours of student engagement time beyond the traditional school day. Activities may include, but are not limited to, a full sport season at the freshman, junior varsity or varsity level, cheerleading, student council, National Honor Society, school plays, school musicals, pep band, jazz band, Falcon Singers, and any high school club activity where the teacher, coach or advisor verifies 20 or more hours of Student Engagement. The Student Engagement Seal Verification form is available from the office. The student is responsible for completing one form for each of the four years of student participation.*