



OFFICE OF STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

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TO: BOCES District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Charter School Leaders
Non-public School Administrators

FROM: Dr. Santosha Oliver, Assistant Commissioner *Santosha Oliver*

SUBJECT: Civic Learning Week – March 10-14, 2025

In March, the nation celebrates Civic Learning Week, an annual event dedicated to strengthening civic education and engagement across the country. Civic Learning Week provides an opportunity for students, educators, and communities to explore the role of civic education in sustaining our democracy. This year's theme, "Civic Learning: Many Voices, One Nation," highlights the importance of diverse perspectives in civic engagement.

Civic education is fundamental to preparing our students to be engaged and informed citizens in America's democracy. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is committed to supporting schools and districts as they continue to provide high-quality civic education for all students in New York.

New York's Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition for high school graduates who demonstrate a deep understanding of civics, civic engagement, and active participation in their communities. The credential not only honors students' achievements, but also prepares them for lifelong civic responsibility. Currently, over 500 schools offer this crucial program, and more than 48,000 students have engaged in meaningful civic learning experiences that empower them to contribute positively to their communities. Through hands-on projects, community involvement, and classroom learning, these students are developing the skills and knowledge necessary for active citizenship.

Schools interested in offering the Seal of Civic Readiness to visit the [Civic Readiness Initiative webpage](#) for information on how to apply and resources to support high-quality civic instruction.

For questions regarding civic education, please contact the Office of Standards and Instruction at P12StandardsInstruction@nysed.gov or 518-474-5922.