



MDUSD State Seal of Civic Engagement

October 13, 2021

Background



Assembly Bill 24 (2017) instructed the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop a set of criteria to award students who have demonstrated excellence in civic education.

“It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE) to encourage, and create pathways for, pupils in elementary and secondary schools to become civically engaged in democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels.”

-California Education Code (EC) Section 51470

Student Eligibility



- Any pupil enrolled in CA public schools, direct-funded charter schools, the juvenile justice system, and/or in alternative school settings up to grade twelve.
- Students may earn an SSCE in either grades eleven or twelve, for purposes of affixing insignia to a transcript to use in college or work applications.
- Where can the insignia be placed?
 - High School Diplomas
 - General Educational Development Certificates
 - Certificates of Completion
 - Transcripts (grades eleven and/or twelve)
- LEAs may develop local means of recognition for younger students as a pathway to earning the SSCE.

SSCE State Criteria



- 1) Be **engaged in academic work** in a productive way;
- 2) Demonstrate a **competent understanding** of United States and California constitutions; functions and governance of local governments; tribal government structures and organizations; the role of the citizen in a constitutional democracy; and democratic principles, concepts, and processes;
- 3) Participate in **one or more informed civic engagement project(s)** that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts;
- 4) Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions **through self-reflection**; and
- 5) Exhibit **character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment** to positively impact the classroom, school, community and/or society.

MDUSD State Seal Criteria



1

Be on track to graduate to earn a diploma or a Certificate of Completion.

2

Earn a passing grade or better in World History and U.S. History equivalent courses.

3

Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts.

4

Participate in the self-reflection process.

5

Letter of recommendation, completed endorsement form, or digital recommendation from one of the following people: educator, mentor, co-worker/supervisor, student leader, or a civic partner or leader.

MDUSD Teacher Guide for the SSCE



The MDUSD Ed Services Website offers greater detail about the criteria.

Criteria 1 - Be engaged in academic work in a productive way.



Criteria 2 - Demonstrate a competent understanding of U.S. and California constitutions; functions and governance of local governments; tribal government structures and organizations; the role of the citizen in a constitutional democracy; and democratic principles, concepts, and processes.



Criteria 3 - Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts.



Criteria 4 - Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions through self-reflection.



Criteria 5 - Exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community and/or society.



MDUSD Student Guide for the SSCE



 State Seal of Civic Engagement Guide for MDUSD Students	
<p>The State Seal of Civic Engagement is open to all 11th and 12th grade California students who are civically engaged in their communities and take action. **The deadline to send in your final submission for the 2021-22 school year is April 27, 2022.</p>	
How do I earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement?	
Students must successfully complete the following FIVE activities/steps:	
1	Be on track to graduate to earn a diploma or a Certificate of Completion.
2	Earn a passing grade or better in World History and U.S. History equivalent courses.
3	Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts. (See Details) ** Check in with your US History, Government, or Econ teacher to discuss your project as early as possible.
4	Participate in the self-reflection process. <input type="text"/> Reflection Form
5	Letter of recommendation, completed endorsement form (Google Doc), or digital recommendation from one of the following people: educator, mentor, co-worker/supervisor, student leader, or a civic partner or leader. Letter of Recommendation Form
How do I apply once I have completed the 5 criteria listed above? You must then complete the following FOUR steps:	
1	Fill out the Submission Form - your history, government, or econ teacher must sign off on all 5 criteria
2	Have a recommender complete the Endorsement Form
3	Fill out the Reflection Form to process your project
4	Submit all three forms into this Google Form by April 27, 2022
What are some examples of previous Civic Engagement Projects?	Riverside Project Soapbox 2020-21 RUSD Civics Showcase