

Civics Task Force

Session 5

February 15, 2023

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Session Objectives

- Participants will identify criteria for high school students to be considered for recognition in civics education.
- Participants will identify criteria for middle school students to be considered for recognition in civics education.
- Participants will review, tune, and come to consensus on draft recommendations for charge elements discussed during Sessions 1-4.

Group Agreements

- Remember the empty chair (why the work and impact)
- Leave egos at the door - focus on the students
- Step up/Step back (manage your airtime)
- Ask clarifying questions
- Don't yuck my yum (recognize our differences)
- Thoughtful and respectful listeners
- Stay Curious - ask each other questions
- Allow equitable conversation time
- Impact vs. Intent
- All questions are valid
- What's said here stays here; what's learned here leaves here
- Stay Engaged
- Be willing to embrace Discomfort
- Speak Your Truth
- Expect and accept non-closure

Purpose of the Task Force

Task force members will develop and make recommendations on:

- A definition of civic readiness
- The Civic Literacy Act in practice: Implementation of a student-led civics project
- The Civic Literacy Act in practice: Strengthening civics within social studies instruction
- Methods and resources for students to engage in discussion and debate
- Hands-on instruction on voter registration
- LEA Recognition of Civic Readiness in Middle School
- LEA Recognition of Civic Readiness in High School

<i>Task force members will develop and make recommendations on:</i>	<i>Task force members will use the following guiding questions to help generate recommendations:</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> The definition of civic readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is civic readiness?• What knowledge, skills, experiences, and mindsets define a civic-ready student?
<input type="checkbox"/> The Civic Literacy Act in practice: Implementation of a student-led civics project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are characteristics of a high-quality student-led civics project?• What does a student-led civics project look like in middle school?• What does a student-led civics project look like in high school?
<input type="checkbox"/> The Civic Literacy Act in practice: Strengthening civics within social studies instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can/should LEAs strengthen civics within their social studies instruction?
<input type="checkbox"/> Methods and resources for students to engage in discussion and debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What methods and resources can LEAs use for students to engage in discussion and debate?
<input type="checkbox"/> Hands-on instruction on voter registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What methods and resources can LEAs use to engage in hands-on instruction on voter registration?
<input type="checkbox"/> LEA Recognition of Civic Readiness in Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How might LEAs select middle school students for recognition of civic readiness?• What are criteria for middle school students to be considered for recognition?
<input type="checkbox"/> LEA Recognition of Civic Readiness in High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How might LEAs select high school students for recognition of civic readiness?• What are criteria for high school students to be considered for recognition?

Cadence of Task Force Meetings



The Task Force will be expected to submit an initial report and recommendations to the Commissioner by March 31, 2023. Recommendations will inform upcoming workstreams, curricular frameworks, and other resources and guidance for schools and districts.

High School Civics Recognition

- Historically there are 2 ways that R.I. high school graduates have received advanced recognition on their high school diploma:
 - Diploma Seals
 - Diploma Endorsements
- The next 3 slides provide an overview of what *currently exists* and the work RIDE is committed to doing to revamp these opportunities to ensure that students have their learning experiences recognized and valued by R.I. Institutions of Higher Education and R.I. employers.
- Task Force recommendations will inform how RIDE develops a high school civics recognition *and* serve as a model for how RIDE revitalizes current (and future) diploma recognition opportunities for students.

Diploma Seal

Below is what currently exists:

- **There are 2 R.I. Diploma Seals:**

- Commissioner's Seal - certifies that a student is proficient in standards aligned to high school expectations in English Language Arts and Mathematics, as confirmed by external evidence.
- Seal of Biliteracy - certifies that a student has demonstrated skills in the English language and one or more other world languages.

- **Diploma Seals are tied to assessment:**

- Commissioner's Seal - Students must successfully meet the established benchmark on both an approved ELA assessment and an approved mathematics assessment (E.g., ACT, PSAT, SAT, AP, PARCC)
- Seal of Biliteracy - Students must successfully meet the established benchmark on RIDE-approved assessments in English and another world language (E.g., ACT, PSAT, ACT, AP, ACCESS, AAPPL, ACTFL, ASLPI, STAMP 4S, etc.)

Endorsements

Below is what currently exists:

- Guided Pathway Endorsements certify that a student has accomplished deep learning in a chosen area of interest and is prepared for employment or further education in a career path.
- Guided Pathway Endorsements currently may be earned in one of 7 discipline areas:
 - Arts and Humanities
 - Business, Economics, and Data Analytics
 - Education, Government, and Human Services
 - Communications, Media, and Film
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
 - Environment and Sustainability
 - Health and Health Administration
- To earn an endorsement, students must currently complete a **3+ academic course sequence**, a **work-based learning experience**, and a **performance-based assessment**.
- Currently, these diploma endorsements are not recognized or valued by R.I. institutions of Higher Education nor employers.

RIDE's Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements

- On November 15, 2022, the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education unanimously approved RIDE's proposal for Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements to take effect with the graduating Class of 2028.
- Included in RIDE's Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements is the expectation that:
 - ***“Commencing with the Class of 2028, students will be required to earn a diploma plus credential that is recognized and valued by Rhode Island’s postsecondary education institutions, and employers to earn a diploma endorsement.”***
 - This regulatory language sets the expectation diploma endorsements awarded to any student beginning with the graduation Class of 2028 must be recognized and valued by R.I. postsecondary institutions and/or employers. This does not mean that all students are required to earn a diploma plus credential.
- Included in RIDE's Action Plan to support the implementation of these regulatory changes, is RIDE's commitment to revitalizing all existing (and future) diploma endorsements.
- We look forward to receiving the Task Force's recommendations to inform RIDE's development of high school civics recognition and RIDE's process for revitalizing all existing (and future) diploma endorsement to ensure they are meaningful for our students.

Criteria for High School Student Recognition

In small groups respond to these questions:

- What academic criteria should be used to determine high school student recognition in civics education? (e.g., 3+ academic course sequence, etc.)
- What practical applications should students experience to determine high school student recognition in civics education? (e.g., work-based learning experience, service learning, performance-based assessment, etc.)
- What criteria should be included in a civics endorsement that provides a student with advanced standing when applying for postsecondary education and/or career opportunities?

Middle School Student Recognition



The task force is charged with advising the Commissioner on the establishment and implementation of a civics award program for middle school:

- The civics award program will be used by local education agencies (LEAs) to recognize middle school students who have demonstrated outstanding progress in civic readiness.

Middle School Recognition



- What practical applications should students experience to determine middle school student recognition in civics education? (e.g., work-based learning experience, service learning, performance-based assessment, etc.)
- What recommendations do you have about guidance RIDE can provide LEAs to develop a civics award program (e.g. honor roll, etc.) that recognizes middle school students' accomplishments in civics?

Additional Stakeholder Feedback



Do we have any additional stakeholder feedback?

Consensus on Recommendations

Review the recommendation and choose which option you feel most comfortable supporting.

1. I support this recommendation as it stands.
2. I have some reservations, but can support this recommendation as it stands.
3. I cannot support the recommendation as it stands. Why?