

# State Seal of Civic Engagement



# Committee Members

- Alfred Zamora - GHS
- Marlon Brown - GHS
- Gary Lambright - SHS
- Adam La Munyon - SHS
- Irene Sanchez - AHS / GHS / SHS
- Althea Zimmer - TOSA
- Sheryce Long - GHS
- Dr. Martin Gomez - AHS
- Frank Chang - District Office

# Purpose & Overview

- “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
- A hallmark of the SSCE is its accessibility to all students, regardless of their backgrounds, communities, and experiences. This includes taking into consideration how local education agencies (LEAs) can support California’s most underserved students in earning the seal in ways that may not always mirror traditional student paths to civic engagement and learning. As civic engagement may look different from community to community, the CDE encourages LEAs to work with local and statewide organizations to develop local criteria and to design and implement impactful civic engagement programs and pathways that reflect community interests, needs, and resources.
- The SSCE is awarded to “California students who demonstrate excellence in civics education and participation, and an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government.”

# Key State-Level Activities

Date	Event
October 2017	AB 24 signed into law
November 2018	Convening of SSCE Advisory Group
January–February 2019	Drafting of SSCE criteria
March–April 2019	Public review, comment, and edits
July 2019	Draft criteria presented to the SBE
August 2019	SBE Information Memorandum on incorporating the SSCE into the College and Career Indicator
September 2019	Revised draft criteria presented to the SBE
September 2020	Final criteria adopted by the SBE
January 31, 2021	Statutory deadline for the SBE to take action



# Next Steps for the California Department of Education

1. Provide technical assistance, including presentations and webinars, to support LEAs with adoption of local criteria, programming, and ordering of insignia.
2. Disseminate resources for LEA use in developing local criteria and programming, through web pages, Twitter, and the History-Social Science (HSS) newsletter.
3. Support stakeholder groups with identifying, promoting, and scaling local civic engagement programs from early-adopter LEAs.



# Background for AUSD

- LACOE sent a news release on September 10, 2020 about the newly adopted SSCE criteria and the CDE's webpage in support of the SSCE.
- LACOE offered a SSCE Overview Webinar on November 20, 2020 (Althea attended). All high school HSS teachers were invited to LACOE's introductory webinar about the SSCE on December 16, 2020 and 8 of us went.
- Monthly LACOE SSCE Collaborative meetings began in January and ended in May, where information was shared across districts regarding the SSCE. A LACOE SSCE webpage was created as well as a shared folder in Drive.
- All information, folders, and links have been shared with all high school HSS teachers across AUSD.

# General Process

AUSD Board of Education approved BP/AR 5126 on April 13, 2021 (Awards for Achievement)



Develop and Adopt Local Criteria



Design and Implement Program Components



Request Insignias from California Department of Education (CDE) in the Spring



# Process

- Webinars
- Committee Formed
- Monthly Meetings
- Discussed criteria and used sample templates
- Collaboration amongst site departments and counselors
- Collaboration amongst committee members
- Progress updates to Ed Services and Site Admin
- Development of AUSD criteria



# State Criteria

The five criteria presented below provided a framework for making determinations of student qualifications required to earn the SSCE. The criteria are written to ensure that no student is excluded from an opportunity to earn the SSCE based on **academic ability, alternative school settings, or unique or unconventional expressions of civic engagement.**

# State & Azusa Unified SSCE Criteria

## **Criteria 1: Be engaged in academic work in a productive way.**

Including but not limited to the following: requirements for diplomas OR on track to graduate w/ diploma or receive Certificate of Completion (IEP) OR demonstrating academic improvement.

## **Criteria 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;**

Including but not limited to the following: Cumulative GPA 2.0 for History/Social Science Core Courses of World History, US History, and Government **AND** choose one of these activities: School Board Meetings (meeting could be virtual) or City Council Meetings (meeting could be virtual) or meetings relevant to functions and governance of local governments and approved by teacher.

# State & Azusa Unified SSCE Criteria

**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;**

Including but not limited to the following: Public Issues Town Hall, Voter Registration Drive (more than a one time event and awareness of elections and/or issues/candidates) OR Voter Registration Event and work the polls, attend and present on an issue at School Board or City Hall Meeting, ASB / Club Projects in a leadership role, School Board Student Advisor.

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

Self-reflection may be exhibited in a variety of formats (written, oral, digital, audio, video, multimedia, etc.), and may include the project's impact on the student's learning and growth in civic skills. Reflection is presented to school History/Social Science Teacher; reflection is also given to the panel prior to panel convening.

# State & Azusa Unified SSCE Criteria

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

- Meet with a panel to answer questions regarding how the candidate/student exhibits the characters traits describe.
- Letter of recommendation by adult who is not a relative.

# Next Steps

- Calibration meetings for teachers
- Sharing criteria with students, families, and school staff
- Monitoring of student progress
- Develop necessary rubrics to meet criteria
- Determine make-up of panel, location, and meeting dates
- Long term - develop processes to expand civic engagement at the elementary and middle school level