

Support the Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence!

We urge you to ask Ways & Means to report favorably on HB 72!

This program will inspire students, support teachers, strengthen communities, and ensure that Maryland's youth are prepared to thrive in a democratic society.

What is HB 72?

The Maryland Seal of Civic Excellence will **recognize and reward high school students who demonstrate exceptional civic engagement and knowledge**. This voluntary initiative allows local school systems to award a diploma seal to students who excel in social studies courses and complete a 30-hour service-learning project with a civic focus. Schools that support student civic engagement may be designated centers of civic excellence.

Why is it important?

- **Inspire Students & Teachers:** This program motivates students to deepen their civic engagement and fosters a sense of pride and responsibility. It empowers teachers and schools to prioritize civic education, offering a tangible way to reward students for their active participation in democracy.
- **Enhance College & Career Readiness:** By recognizing civic excellence, Maryland will align itself with 13 other states that have similar programs, giving our students a competitive edge in college applications and future career opportunities.
- **Strengthen Communities:** Civic engagement has been shown to improve mental health, build social cohesion, and promote a sense of belonging—critical for strong, resilient communities.
- **Secure the Future of Democracy:** Civic engagement and education are key to maintaining a healthy democracy. By investing in the next generation of leaders, we're ensuring that Maryland's future is in capable hands.

Let's make Maryland a leader in civic education together!