

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2565

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/13/2025	773	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education Policy
03/17/2025	875	Author added Kunesh
03/24/2025	1029	Author added Housley
03/27/2025	1039a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Education Finance
02/17/2026	6324	Author added Coleman
02/26/2026	6421	Withdrawn and re-referred to Education Policy
03/04/2026	6468a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to State and Local Government
03/23/2026	6917	Author added Maye Quade

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to education; establishing a civic seal designation for high school students;

1.3 establishing a task force; requiring a report; proposing coding for new law in

1.4 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 120B.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **[120B.091] MINNESOTA CIVIC SEAL DESIGNATION.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** (a) A Minnesota Civic Seal designation is established

1.8 for high school students who have demonstrated excellence in civics education and

1.9 engagement. The purpose of this designation is to encourage civic learning, promote active

1.10 participation in democratic institutions, and recognize students who have achieved a high

1.11 level of civic knowledge, skills, and community involvement.

1.12 (b) A student must meet the following minimum criteria to be awarded the Minnesota

1.13 Civic Seal:

1.14 (1) complete activities across multiple areas of civic competency, including democratic

1.15 engagement, civic knowledge, media literacy, community service, and bridge building, with

1.16 demonstrated proficiency in each area;

1.17 (2) complete a civics-related project that involves research, planning, and action on a

1.18 community issue, resulting in measurable civic impact or engagement; and

1.19 (3) complete a reflection that evaluates the learning experience, impact, and personal

1.20 growth gained from civic engagement activities.

1.21 (c) The criteria must be broad enough for any student in any region or community of

1.22 the state to be able to earn the seal without having to spend personal resources to access the

2.1 criteria or activity. No specific out-of-school or partisan civic program or provider shall be
2.2 named or required as specific criteria. A school district or individual school must not be
2.3 obligated to participate in offering or awarding a Minnesota Civic Seal designation.

2.4 Subd. 2. **Minnesota Civic Seal Task Force.** (a) A Minnesota Civic Seal Task Force is
2.5 established to oversee the implementation and ongoing development of the Minnesota Civic
2.6 Seal designation. The task force shall be led by the YMCA Center for Youth Voice.

2.7 (b) The task force membership must include:

2.8 (1) the Secretary of State or designee, who shall serve as chair;

2.9 (2) the commissioner of education or designee;

2.10 (3) at least two civic educators representing different regions of the state;

2.11 (4) at least two professional development providers with expertise in civics education;

2.12 (5) at least two high school students who have earned or are working toward the

2.13 Minnesota Civic Seal;

2.14 (6) at least one representative from an institution of higher education;

2.15 (7) at least two civic engagement experts or representatives from nonprofit organizations
2.16 focused on democracy education or youth civic engagement; and

2.17 (8) other members as determined appropriate by the Secretary of State.

2.18 (c) The task force shall:

2.19 (1) establish and periodically review specific criteria and guidelines for awarding the
2.20 Minnesota Civic Seal;

2.21 (2) provide guidance and support to all schools implementing the Minnesota Civic Seal
2.22 designation;

2.23 (3) ensure the criteria remain broad and accessible to students from all regions and
2.24 backgrounds;

2.25 (4) review and approve program implementation plans submitted by participating schools;

2.26 (5) promote awareness of the Minnesota Civic Seal designation among students,
2.27 educators, and communities; and

2.28 (6) submit an annual report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
2.29 kindergarten through grade 12 education on program participation, outcomes, and
2.30 recommendations for improvement.

3.1 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

3.2 (e) Members of the task force shall serve for a term of three years or until the member
3.3 no longer meets the requirement of the role, whichever is sooner.

3.4 (f) The task force shall meet at least twice annually, with additional meetings as called
3.5 by the chair.

3.6 Subd. 3. **School participation.** (a) Participation is optional for any high school to offer
3.7 the Minnesota Civic Seal designation. A school that offers or awards a Minnesota Civic
3.8 Seal designation must:

3.9 (1) provide information to all secondary students regarding the opportunity to earn the
3.10 Minnesota Civic Seal and the criteria for being awarded the recognition; and

3.11 (2) record the designation on the official transcript of each student who earns the
3.12 Minnesota Civic Seal.

3.13 (b) A school must not charge a fee to a student or the student's family for participation
3.14 in earning the Minnesota Civic Seal.

3.15 (c) A school must notify the task force of its intent to offer or award a Minnesota Civic
3.16 Seal designation.

3.17 Subd. 4. **Seal and recognition.** (a) The commissioner of education must publish the
3.18 Minnesota Civic Seal requirements adopted by the task force on the department's website.

3.19 (b) The commissioner may also provide additional materials to schools to recognize and
3.20 celebrate students who achieve the Minnesota Civic Seal designation.

3.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for the 2027-2028 academic school year
3.22 and applies to students graduating in 2028 and later.