



DPS & the Seal of Climate Literacy

Diploma Endorsement

Preparing high school students to lead in addressing the economic and social impacts of a changing climate.

Students, educators, and schools across Colorado recognize the urgent need to address significant environmental changes. Colorado's industries require a workforce ready to tackle new challenges in energy, agriculture, forestry, outdoor recreation, and more.

The Seal of Climate Literacy diploma endorsement equips students with crucial climate knowledge and skills, going beyond traditional classroom learning.



DPS Sustainability launched the Seal of Climate Literacy during the 2024-25 school year. The seal fits with DPS' commitment to becoming a nationally recognized leader in sustainability, climate action, and environmental justice. The seal is one way that we can meet our goal of 100% student and staff engagement in sustainability by 2050.

Colorado established the Seal of Climate Literacy diploma endorsement in 2024 ([Senate Bill 24-014](#)).

Earning the Seal

To qualify, students must:

- **Meet all graduation requirements**
- **Pass at least 20 credits of approved courses (see course lists: [DPS](#) and [DSST](#))**
- **Complete an experiential learning project**

Students must complete at least 20 credits of approved coursework that cover climate literacy topics, one of which must be a science course.

Students must also complete an experiential learning project that demonstrates their understanding of climate change and their ability to apply that knowledge in a real-world context. Experiential learning can take many forms, allowing students to explore their interests and passions. Projects must be pre-approved and aligned with the Seal's learning objectives.

Projects may be completed in grades 6-12, while all approved coursework is in grades 9-12.

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Why Experiential Learning?

The seal encourages students to take action at the local level. Studies show that the most impactful way to engage youth around climate issues is through hands-on learning in their own communities.

An experiential learning project could be:

- **Participating in the DPS summer Renewable Energy Academy**
- **Interning with a local nonprofit focused on environmental issues**
- **Completing a field project such as the analysis of the effects of carbon reduction from trees in a city park**

A project could also be a film, a social media campaign, a capstone project, participation in a school Green Team, or other ways a student feels able to make a difference. Projects are individually tailored, and can be incredibly diverse!

Projects must meet the criteria on the [DPS Seal of Climate Literacy website](https://www.sustainability.dpsk12.org). Projects can be completed in grades 6-12, but must be presented and approved to qualify.

Students may work with nonprofits, local businesses, and other community partners on their experiential learning projects. **Community partners offering to support students' projects will be continuously added to [this partner list](#).**



Share With Your Students

Download [this flyer](#) to share with any students you think might be interested in earning the seal.

