

Seal of Climate Literacy Diploma Endorsement

The Seal of Climate Literacy Diploma Endorsement prepares high school students to lead in addressing the economic and social impacts of a changing climate.



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

Why a Seal of Climate Literacy?

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.

The Seal of Climate Literacy isn't just a diploma endorsement; it's a pathway for students to become leaders in the face of climate change. It's about equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to tackle real-world challenges and create a more sustainable future.

The Seal equips students with the essential skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the green workforce of tomorrow, employing transferable skills cultivated through climate literacy such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and systems thinking, which are invaluable in any career path.



DPS Students for Climate Action
receiving the President's Youth Environmental Award
in Washington DC, 2023

DPS & the Seal of Climate Literacy

Denver Public Schools will be working with high schools to implement the Seal of Climate Literacy starting 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 all students and staff being engaged in sustainability by 2050.

A stipend may be available for a point person at qualifying schools to support students in pursuing the seal this year. The '24-25 Sustainability Mentor will help students develop project ideas, review and evaluate projects, and track and report completion to DPS. School Leaders can apply for the stipend position by submitting the name of their Sustainability Mentor [HERE](#).

Requirements for the Seal

The Seal isn't a one-size-fits-all program; it's designed to be flexible and responsive to the specific climate challenges and opportunities that each community faces. There is a wide range of ways green skills can be developed in alignment with student interests.

Students must complete two courses that cover climate literacy topics. One must be a science course, the other may be science, humanities, civics, or any other course that incorporates climate literacy principles.

Students must also complete a Project Based Learning experience 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 approved by the school and aligned with the Seal's learning objectives.

What is the benefit to students?

The Seal was developed as a way for students to signal their understanding of climate change and demonstrate how they play a role in addressing climate issues in their communities and beyond. It helps channel students' passions and interests around the climate crisis into relevant learning opportunities culminating in an experiential learning project.

Critical thinking Students develop the problem-solving skills needed to address complex environmental issues.

Leadership The Seal fosters leadership and empowers students to advocate for a sustainable future.

College and career ready The Seal enhances resumes and college applications, signaling a student's commitment to making a difference.



SEAL OF CLIMATE LITERACY



Why experiential learning?

The Seal of Climate Literacy encourages students and learners 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 participation in the DPS Renewable Energy Academy, an internship with a local nonprofit focused on climate change, or an analysis of the effects of carbon reduction from trees in a city park. A project could also be a digital film, a social media campaign, the creation of a Green Team, or however a student feels able to make an impact and difference. Projects are individually tailored, and can be incredibly diverse!

DPS will provide a rubric to guide and evaluate the alignment of student projects to the goals of climate literacy.

Schools may approve nonprofits, local businesses, school clubs, and other community and education partners to work with students' on their experiential learning projects.

Projects may include:

STUDENT CLUB LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Community connections: Students can establish climate-focused clubs that educate their peers and community about the systemic and individual environmental systems, promoting sustainable practices and advocacy, i.e. through Climate Champions and Eco School certification.

RESEARCH-BASED SOLUTIONS

Sustainable practices: Students can research and implement sustainable practices that benefit local economy and livelihood. This may also be an internship or summer program such as DPS' Renewable Energy Academy.

ARTISTIC CLIMATE EXPRESSIONS

Abstract thinking: Students can utilize their personal experience, expressions, and artistic nature to visualize or communicate the impact they have on climate change in their community through art or writing. Students share their work to their peers as a mode of activism.



EXAMPLE OF A Student Journey



Jaime takes **science** freshman year as a part of district graduation requirements.

Jaime completes a **CTE or CE course** related to **environmental science**.

Jaime completes an **internship** with a local solar installation company.

Jaime's school confers the **Seal of Climate Literacy** to show mastery of green skills.



DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sustainability

To learn more contact:
dept_sustainability@dpsk12.net



SEAL OF CLIMATE LITERACY

Sample DPS Courses

If your school offers these courses, you may have students eligible to receive the Seal of Climate Literacy this year! At least one of the two courses must be a science course, the other may be another content as long as it includes [climate literacy principles](#).

High School Science courses that qualify:

- o General Ed Courses:
 - iHub Biology
 - iHub Chemistry
 - Earth Science (EarthComm from Active Physics)
 - Environmental Science
- o AP Courses
 - Environmental Science
- o IB Courses
 - IB Environmental Systems & Society

CTE Sustainability Pathway

Concurrent / Dual Enrollment courses that qualify:

- o CE- ENV 1111 Environmental Science with Lab
- o CE-GEY 1111 Physical Geology w/Lab: SC1
- o CE- WQM 1000 Introduction to Water Quality
- o CE- GEO 1005 World Geography
- o CE- BIO 130 & 135 Environmental Biology
- o DE- BIO 121 Environmental Conservation

Other non-science courses may qualify if they include climate literacy principles; please reach out to dept_sustainability@dpsk12.net if you have questions.

SHARE [THIS FLIER](#) WITH YOUR STUDENTS!

Reach out to the [DPS Sustainability Team](#) to talk about next steps.



Read more about Denver Public School's Climate Action Plan [here](#).

SealofClimateLiteracy.org



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