

Standards of Excellence to Obtain a Departmental

SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Effective for Graduating Class of 2015 and Beyond

All students completing the graduation requirements for the Springfield Public Schools will receive a diploma; however, those students who demonstrate achievement of the standards of excellence in identified subject areas will have a "Seal of Excellence" included with their diploma. This Seal will designate the subject area or areas in which excellence has been achieved. The appropriate department at each high school will approve a student receiving a "Seal of Excellence".

A student will be eligible for a "Seal of Excellence" upon (1) Submission of application to the appropriate department; (2) Verification by the department that all subject area standards of excellence have been completed; and (3) Recommendation by the department that a "Seal of Excellence" be awarded.

English Language Arts

English

- Student must earn a non-weighted GPA of 3.76 or above in English courses.
- Student must score an average of 27 or higher on the English and reading portions of the ACT or score in the 90th percentile or higher on the reading and writing portions of the SAT.
- Student must have earned 4 units of English (not counting Drama, Speech, or Journalism).

Drama

- Student must earn a non-weighted GPA of 3.76 or above in Drama.
- Student must have been enrolled in Drama for at least two years (2 credits). Student must have participated in at least three school plays.
- Student must be a member of the school chapter of the International Thespian Society.

Journalism

- Student must have taken at least two years (2 credits) of Journalism. Student must earn a non-weighted GPA of 3.76 or above in Journalism.
- Student must have held a staff position above reporter or photographer.
- Student must have been dependable and cooperative regarding meeting publication and marketing deadlines.

Speech

- Student must earn a non-weighted GPA of 3.76 or above in Speech.
- Student must have been a member of NSDA for two years. Student must have placed in at least two major tournaments.
- Student must have attended ten speech or debate tournaments.

Mathematics

- *Beginning with the Graduating Class of 2020* - Student must score a 27 or higher on the Math portion of the ACT.
- Student must earn four or more units of credit in mathematics courses.
- A minimum of two units of credit must be: Algebra II H, Trigonometry/Math Analysis, AP Statistics, College Statistics, IB HL/SL Math, or AP Calculus.
- Student must earn a non-weighted GPA of 3.76 or above in mathematics courses.
- Student must have participated in one or more of the following mathematics activities: American High School Mathematics Examination, MSU Pummill Math Relays, or a project approved by the department chair.

Science

- Student must score a 29 or above on the Science portion of the ACT.
- Student must have completed four or more science courses, with a minimum of 2 weighted or honors courses.
- Student must have a non-weighted GPA of 3.76 or above for science courses.
- Student must participate in at least 3 science related extracurricular activities, with at least one of the activities being an approved science competition. Student must provide verification of activity. Approval of activity from the Science department chair.

Social Studies

- Student must have earned 4.0 units of credit in social studies. Student must have earned a non-weighted GPA of 3.76 or above in his/her social studies courses.
- Student must have participated in one or more extra-curricular activities related to the social studies curriculum: i.e. participation in student government; attendance at Boys' State or Girls' State; member of Key club or some other service club; participation in History Bowl or History Day contests; participation in the UN Mock Assembly; Youth-in-Government; Youth Election Program; Mock Trial; Geography Bowl; participation in Missouri Public Affairs Academy; or attendance at a session of the state legislature, school board meeting, city council, federal or state judicial court session; and other activities deemed significant by the social studies department.

Health/Physical Education

- Student must have completed 1 1/2 units of required Physical Education and 1/2 unit of Health with a grade of A or A-.
- Student must participate in a school athletic program or health related community service (examples: Relay for Life, Special Olympics, MS150 Bike Ride, Fun Run).

World Language

- Student must have successfully completed at least the third level of a foreign language with grades of A or A-.
- Student must have demonstrated an interest in the target culture by participation in extracurricular activities related to foreign language.

Music

- Student must enroll in music classes for a minimum of three years, including the senior year.
- Student will be allowed to work toward separate vocal music and instrumental music awards.
- Student may receive both vocal and instrumental awards. Student must enroll for a minimum of three years in the specific area to be awarded, vocal or instrumental or both (transfer credit allowed).
- Student must achieve a GPA of 4.0 or above in music courses. Student must achieve a minimum total of extra-curricular points as follows: vocal – 25; band – 28; orchestra – 16.
- Points Earned Annually: (applied to vocal and/or instrumental awards).
 - Completion of AP Theory with a minimal grade of B – 1 point Local school, large extra-curricular ensemble or musical of 9 or more members - 2 points each ensemble
 - District and/or All-State Choir, Band, or Orchestra – 1 point each ensemble
 - Participation (including accompanist) in solo or small ensemble receiving no less than a “II” rating in District or State Music Contest – 1 point each event so rated
 - Other annual point awards: Springfield Youth Symphony - 2 points; Local school pep-band - 1 point; College-sponsored “honors” performing organizations -1 point

Visual Arts

- Student must have a grade of A or A- in three units of art. Student will present a portfolio of 7-10 pieces demonstrating proficiency in his/her area of emphasis.
- Student must participate in art-related extracurricular activities.

Business Education

- Student must have an A or A- in a minimum of two units of business education classes.
- Student must demonstrate proficient operation of the computer.
- Student must have been a member of FBLA and participated in a business-related contest.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Student must have earned 2 units of credit in Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Student must have an A or A- in Family and Consumer Sciences classes.
- Student must participate in Family and Consumer Sciences related extracurricular activities.
- Student must complete a career portfolio that demonstrates creative and critical thinking.

Technology Education

- Student must have completed 2 units of industrial technology with a grade of A or A-.
- Student must demonstrate excellence in written materials, process performance skills and show evidence of technological literacy.
- Student must display mastery of safety and operation of tools and equipment.
- Student must demonstrate exceptional leadership initiative and responsibility.
- Student must develop and successfully complete a special project. This project should be displayed and presented to third parties.
- Student must submit a career-oriented paper on an occupation or vocation of his/her choice.

Marketing and Cooperative Education

- Student must have an A or A- in a minimum of 2 units of marketing classes.
- Student should have entered the DECA district CDC.
- Student must have participated in the marketing co-curricular leadership, social, vocational and civic activities.
- Student must have indicated an ability to make good ethical choices in business and work-related situations.

JROTC

- Student must enroll in and complete 3 years of Leadership Education & Training (LET).
- Student must be enrolled in LET 4.
- Student must have a GPA of 4.0 in JROTC Classes.
- Student must show exemplary citizenship (no ISS, OSS or other school violations).