

**The Connecticut  
Certificate of Global  
Engagement  
Guidelines**



# Connecticut State Department of Education

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## Overview

The Connecticut Certificate of Global Engagement (Certificate) was established to recognize public high school graduates who have successfully completed a global education curriculum and engaged in co-curricular activities and experiences that fostered the development of global competencies and global citizenship.

The Certificate is based on the guidelines of the Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) World Readiness Standards, and builds upon the recommendations of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

The Certificate supports student literacy as defined by the Common Core Standards and provides a pathway for 21st Century Skills.

The Certificate does not require additional resources in local school districts, as all coursework would already be part of the curriculum. The Certificate, however, gives school districts an opportunity to evaluate the entire school curriculum through the lens of global knowledge. Teachers are encouraged to include a global dimension whenever possible and warranted.

The Certificate focuses and validates the excellent global education learning opportunities already in place in most school districts, encourages students to enroll in classes with global content across the content areas, and prepares globally competent students who are college and career ready.

## Background and Rationale

A globally competent and competitive citizenry and workforce is essential within the state of Connecticut. It is in the interest of every student to seek out and take advantage of global learning opportunities for reasons of career advancement, civic engagement, and personal development and enrichment.

The mission of the Certificate program is to provide Connecticut students a pathway to gain global knowledge and skills that will increase their competitiveness and ability to succeed in college and career and their participation as informed citizens.

In today's global marketplace, it is in the long-term economic, social, and democratic interests of the United States, Connecticut, and local communities to encourage and facilitate international connections in the community, state and beyond.

Schools are increasingly offering a variety of courses and co-curricular activities that have a global focus and are aligned with appropriate national and state standards. While the expansion of curriculum and course opportunities would be welcome and beneficial, schools can advance global education with existing resources and structures by cultivating school cultures that emphasize these opportunities and by engaging in ongoing efforts to ensure that students, parents, teachers, school administrators, school boards, and the general public fully

recognize the value of global learning and its essential place in a well-rounded contemporary education.

### **Purpose**

The Certificate validates a student's deliberate pursuit of a global education and awareness.

This designation aims:

- to educate a globally competent citizenry by encouraging students to pursue the global aspects of their education;
- to serve as an enhancement of a student's profile in the college admissions process; and
- to serve as an important hiring consideration by prospective employers.

### **Definition**

As defined by Mansilla and Jackson (2011), globally competent students:

- have the capacity and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance.
- are aware, curious, and interested in learning about the world and how it works. They can use the big ideas, methods, and languages that are central to any discipline (mathematics, literature, history, science, and the arts) to engage the pressing issues of our time. They deploy and develop this expertise as they investigate such issues, recognizing multiple perspectives, communicating their views effectively, and taking action to improve conditions.

### **Global Learning: An Opportunity for All Students**

Global and world language learning opportunities should be emphasized for all students. All students need solid preparation for active participation in internationally interconnected societies for several reasons, including the fact that a strong democracy depends on an informed and knowledgeable citizenry. In today's intricately interconnected world, informed citizens require an increasingly broader base of knowledge and perspective, because local communities, societies and economies are directly affected by events and trends that occur well beyond national borders.

The American school system aims to provide all students equal opportunities without tracking them at an early age into career-specific learning pathways. Therefore, all students should be provided with learning opportunities that prepare them to live, work and interact within a global context.

## **Components of the Connecticut Certificate of Global Engagement**

Connecticut school districts may award the designation Certificate on the high school transcripts of those students who demonstrate achievement toward global competency. Districts may choose to acknowledge this competency by affixing a seal on the high school diploma. In addition, recognition of extraordinary achievement may be made at the district level. Criteria for such recognition would be determined by the district and each Connecticut school district may develop its own specific Certificate program using the guidelines in this

document to determine which courses have a significant global focus. District policy should specify the criteria for students to attain the designation, including a listing of specific classes that would fulfill the requirements. In developing such a policy, it is important that the criteria be sufficiently rigorous to be meaningful and be sufficiently flexible in the pathways for students to achieve this. An overall average grade of B in the completion of the ensuing list of possible courses from grades 9-12 should be required. A district may use discretion (in regards to the B average) in the case of extenuating circumstances for a given student. All students, including those with an exceptionality or disability, should have the opportunity to earn the Connecticut Certificate of Global Engagement. Accommodations should be provided to students per their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for all assessments and activities. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) personnel may review the policy developed by individual school districts.

### **The Connecticut Certificate of Global Engagement and Transcript Endorsements**

The Certificate and transcript endorsements shall be awarded to high school students who have demonstrated competency through global education by successfully fulfilling the recommended criteria in the following three (3) areas: globally-focused coursework, globally focused student activities, and a Global Service Learning or Action Project (Appendix A).

### **Pathways to Achieve Global Competency**

To be recognized for this Certificate, students need to complete the following requirements:

- coursework in world languages;
- coursework with strong global implications and analyses; • extracurricular activities and experiences with global themes; and
- a global service learning or action project.

Through coursework and co-curricular activities referenced above, globally competent students will demonstrate the following competencies:

- investigate and express ideas about the world beyond their immediate environment;
- recognize and articulate their own and others' perspectives;
- communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences;
- translate ideas into appropriate actions to address a contemporary global issue.

**Globally-Focused Coursework (at least 7.0 credits or demonstration of mastery)** Mansilla and Jackson (2011) developed the criteria of globally competent students. The following list was created utilizing these criteria and is presented to provide guidance to individual districts in determining which courses may fulfill the necessary criteria.

- **World language coursework:** At least 3 years of high school equivalent study in one or more world language(s). If a student is identified as an English learner and is enrolled in an English as a Second Language (ESL) course, he or she does not need to fulfill the world language coursework requirement.

- **Social Studies, English language arts and other coursework:** At least 4 credits of coursework (or demonstration of mastery) in courses with a global focus, which may include courses on:
  - International economics, business, or marketing
  - International or foreign affairs
  - World/non-U.S. history
  - World geography
  - Comparative cultures and/or religions
  - Science and/or technology courses with global application/perspective
  - Literature of another country, region, or culture
  - Music, drama, and visual arts with international perspective
  - Other disciplines and courses with an international focus (e.g., foods, architecture, sociology, human rights)

### **Globally-Focused Student Activities**

Each student seeking this certificate shall demonstrate competency in global citizenship through active participation in at least one or more co-curricular and other school-sponsored or endorsed activities over at least 3 years of their high school experience. These may include participating in:

- Local or remote engagement with individuals from other countries/cultures that is regular and direct (e.g., pen pals, Skype, school-based and/or community-based organizations)
- Language clubs and/or honor societies
- Internationally focused clubs
- Internationally themed programs/competitions for high school students (e.g., Model United Nations or DECA International competitions)
- Language immersion programs
- Attendance at learning opportunities (lectures, films, presentations) on international topics/issues
- International exchange program as exchange student and/or host
- Travel abroad program/educational tour

### **Global Service Learning or Action Project**

The Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks state that taking informed action is a critical final stage of the inquiry process. In social studies, students use disciplinary knowledge, skills, and perspectives to inquire about problems involved in public issues; deliberate with other people about how to define and address issues; take constructive, independent and collaborative action; reflect on their actions; and create and sustain groups.

Each student shall complete a global/cross-cultural public service project involving at least twenty (20) hours of work, connected to a global community (different from his/her own) or to a contemporary global issue. This may include raising awareness about a global issue, fundraising for an international nonprofit service agency/organization, working on an international project with Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Rotary, or other Service Club, tutoring a child who is an English learner, or volunteering with a cultural/linguistic group in the

community. A reflection paper/product should be required at the conclusion of the service project. In some districts, the culminating activity may be a Capstone (or similarly cumulative) action based project on an understanding and deep learning of a contemporary issue.

Documents such as time logs, project descriptions sheets, etc. will be provided to districts at the beginning of the year as students begin work on the Connecticut Certificate of Global Engagement.

## References

*College, Career, and Civic Life: (C3) Frameworks for Social Studies State Standards*. National Council for the Social Studies. Retrieved from <https://www.socialstudies.org/c3> on September 5, 2017.

*Connecticut Elementary and Social Studies Frameworks*. Connecticut State Department of Education, 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/board/ssframeworks.pdf> on September 5, 2017.

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*World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages*. American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Retrieved from <https://www.actfl.org/publications/all/world-readinessstandards-learning-languages> on September 6, 2017.

## Appendix A

### Components of the Connecticut Certificate of Global Engagement Chart

1. **Academic Courses:** Students must complete the coursework below with an average grade of **B or better**. Embedded in the coursework should be Connecticut's Common Core State Standards (CCSS), 21st Century Skills, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), and the CCSSO criteria for globally competent students.
  - a. 3 years of high school equivalent study in one or more **world language(s)** (or demonstration of mastery)
  - b. 4 credits of coursework (or demonstration of mastery) in **social studies, English language arts and other coursework with a global focus** that are already a part of the school's course of study.

Examples of courses with a global focus include:

1. International economics, business, or marketing
  2. International or foreign affairs
  3. World or non-U.S. history
  4. World geography
  5. Comparative cultures and/or religions
  6. Science or technology with global applications
  7. Literature from another country, region, or culture
  8. Music, drama, or visual arts with an international perspective
  9. Other globally focused courses (such as foods, architecture, sociology, human rights)
2. **Globally Focused Student Activities:** Active participation in at least one or more co-curricular or extracurricular activities over at least 3 years of high school experience. These may include participating in:
    - a. Regular, direct engagement with individuals from
    - b. other countries/cultures (e.g., pen pals, Skype)
    - c. Language clubs and/or honor societies
    - d. Internationally focused clubs
    - e. Internationally themed programs/competitions for high school students (e.g., Model UN or DEA International competitions)
    - f. Language immersion programs
    - g. Attendance at learning opportunities (lectures, films, presentations) on international topics/issues
    - h. International exchange program as exchange student and/or host
    - i. Travel abroad program/educational tour

**3. Global Service Learning or Action Project:** A global/cross cultural public service involving at least twenty (20) hours of work connected to a global community (different from his/her own) or to a contemporary global issue. In some districts, the culminating activity may be a Capstone (or similarly cumulative) action-based project on an understanding and deep learning of a contemporary issue.

Examples may include:

- a. Raising awareness about a global issue
- b. Fundraising for an international nonprofit service agency/organization
- c. Working on an international project with the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Rotary or other Service Club
- d. Tutoring a child who is an English language learner
- e. Volunteering with a cultural/linguistic group in the community