



GaDOE World Languages & Global Workforce Initiatives

Committed to providing high quality instructional and program support in the area of world languages and global education for all of Georgia's districts and stakeholders.

2020 International Skills Diploma Seal Graduates Honor Roll

“Georgia’s 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR students explain what the seal means to them and share their future dreams in their own words.”

In today’s global marketplace, it is important for students to acquire the interdisciplinary skills they need to be globally competent and competitive. The International Skills Diploma Seal is awarded to graduating high school students who complete an international education curriculum and engage in extracurricular activities and experiences that foster the achievement of global competencies. It is a signal to employers and higher education institutions that a student is prepared to participate in the global economy.

Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Khalil
School: Carver Early College
District: Atlanta Public Schools



Languages studied: Mandarin Chinese

ISDS Quote: "To me, earning the International Skills Diploma Seal means that my passion for language and culture is only going to continue opening more doors for me. It means that I need to keep my guard up for more opportunities because acquiring a language is something that makes me unique. I'm so excited to see how Mandarin will play a role in the next chapter of my life!"

Future Plans: "My plan for the future consists of: Attending UGA with a major in international business and marketing, participating in work-study at the study abroad office, and getting plenty of opportunities to study abroad. As I study abroad, I want to somehow have an influence on that international community, whether it's a business, a YouTube channel where I interact with the community, or just leaving any type of positive impression that helps me build connections and changes people's hearts for the better."

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent | Georgia Department of Education | Educating Georgia's Future



Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Jonathan
School: Chapel Hill High School
District: Douglas County



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "Earning the ISDS has helped me become more confident in my Spanish speaking abilities."

Future Plans: "I will be studying Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech, where I plan to combine a knowledge of Spanish with the Engineering industry."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Saidharshana
School: Denmark High School
District: Forsyth County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: “Earning the International Skills Diploma and working for it makes me more competent, not only in my community, but also globally. Throughout my journey, I was able to reach out to so many different people as well as experience new cultures and traditions. I am really grateful that I received this opportunity to grow”

Future Plans: “After graduation, I will be attending the University of Alabama at Birmingham, pursuing the Pre-med track as an immunology major. As a physician, I hope to continue to reach out and help all varieties of people, English speakers or not. “

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Ludyana
School: Douglas County High School
District: Douglas County



Languages studied: Spanish & French (4 yrs each)

ISDS Quote: “Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal to me means that all of the work, extracurricular activities, international events and clubs I had the opportunity to be a part of over my high school career have influenced me and shaped me into a global citizen, with the ability to thrive in an ever-changing global economy. Having the Diploma Seal showcases my passion and hard work dedicated to learning how to communicate with others and share thoughts and desires, your past and present, your ambitions for the future, culture and history.”

Future Plans: “After graduation, I plan to attend Georgia Tech and continue my foreign language studies in addition to majoring in Biochemistry. In the future I want to use the skills I've learned in pursuing the International Skills Diploma Seal to work around the world and to aid and provide medical care to those who need it most.”

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Vyshnavi
School: Dutchtown High School
District: Henry County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "This accomplishment will highlight my genuine interest and love for learning new languages and exploring as much as possible about different cultures and places around the world."

Future Plans: "With the experience of my Honors Spanish classes, I have learned the importance of practicing and repetition when learning a new language. The skills that I learned while learning Spanish will be similar to the techniques that I will use to learn new languages such as Hindi and Japanese. ISDS skills will intertwine with my lifestyle as I continue to travel and explore more places for adventure. "

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Zachary
School: Eagles Landing High School
District: Henry County Schools



Languages studied: French

ISDS Quote: ""Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will eat for a lifetime." -famous proverb

Future Plans: "I plan to study civil engineering at either Kennesaw State or Georgia Southern. If I continue my career in civil engineering, I'd be glad to apply my knowledge in French and Creole when working with a diverse array of future clients. I am also seriously considering doing real estate and starting a business, where I can gladly use my French and Creole with clients when needed (especially since my dad already does so with his clients). I would also love for my future business to expand beyond international borders. "

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Megan
School: East Coweta High School
District: Coweta County Schools



Languages studied: French

ISDS Quote: "If it had not been for the support of my teacher, Madame Christine Poling, I would have never found my passion for cultural studies. To me, the International Skills Diploma Seal represents four years of hard work, dedication, and growth."

Future Plans: "I plan to attend the University of West Georgia's Honors College to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in English language. After I receive this degree, I plan to start work through an online platform as an ESOL (English as a second language) teacher for students across the globe while pursuing a Doctorate of Optometry."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Melissa
School: Etowah High School
District: Cherokee County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "Since beginning high school, earning the International Skills Diploma Seal has always been a goal and dream of mine that I wanted to achieve. I loved being able to strengthen my Spanish skills and learn about and embrace the rich culture behind it."

Future Plans: "I plan to attend Kennesaw State University and pursue a Nursing major where I hope to help break down the language and cultural barriers that exist in healthcare and pursue my passion of helping to save and better lives."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Janelle
School: Fayette County High School
District: Fayette County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "Earning the ISDS is something I have worked towards since the 10th grade. Going through the process of earning the seal allowed me to delve deeper into my own culture and really connect with my heritage. International skills are of great importance for not just any career, but also to better understand the world around us. I truly appreciate getting the opportunity to earn the International Skills Diploma Seal and the journey is one I will never forget."

Future Plans: "I plan to attend Boston University. I wish to continue learning languages, starting with French. Also, I strive to help people in need, no matter where they come from."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!



First Name: Victoria
School: Furlow Charter School
District: Sumter County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "ISDS is meaningful to me because the program will allow me to explore better opportunities in careers that interest me."

Future Plans: "I will attend Georgia Southern University and major in Nursing with a minor in Spanish. I want to be able to further the skills I learned at Furlow through the ISDS program."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Lisanna
School: Hampton High School
District: Henry County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal means a lot to me. This diploma represents all the hard work that me and my family have put into my education. It shows that I have the necessary skills to help in the international world to make a difference. I'm honored to be a recipient of this award and I will be forever grateful and proud of this accomplishment and the people that help me obtain it."

Future Plans: "After graduation, I plan to attend Georgia State University. I want to major in Occupational therapy and get my bachelor's in Kinesiology. I would like to get a minor in Forensic science and Spanish"

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Lily
School: Islands High School
District: Savannah Chatham CPS



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "I have worked extremely hard throughout high school to excel in all of my internationally focused classes and gain a deeper understanding of the world. Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal would be a recognition of this effort, as well as of my dedication to becoming a globally informed citizen."

Future Plans: "I will be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology as a History, Technology, and Society major. I plan to study abroad, although I am unsure of where. I know that the internationally focused classes and experiences I participated in during my childhood years, as well as my analysis of them through my International Skills Diploma Seal essay, have prepared me to travel abroad and pursue this major with an open-mind and global awareness."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Carol
School: Johns Creek High School
District: Fulton County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "It is an honor to receive the ISDS seal as an acknowledgement of my dedication towards mastering foreign languages and being an active citizen in our global community. I know I will carry and expand upon my passion for cross-cultural communication for the rest of my life."

Future Plans: "I plan to pursue a degree in Human & Organizational Development with a minor in Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University this fall. With the international skills I've learned in the past four years, I hope to enter the field of diplomacy or civil rights law upon graduation and eventually learn Arabic and Russian."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!



First Name: Michelle
School: Locust Grove High School
District: Henry County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal is an absolute honor. This seal is evidence of my hard work and how I have grown in global perspectives."

Future Plans: "I plan to attend Mercer University and complete my undergraduate degree where I will then attend Mercer's Physician Assistant Program and graduate with a Bachelor of Science."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Janae
School: Lovejoy High School
District: Clayton County Schools



Languages studied: Chinese

ISDS Quote: ““Learning Chinese has pushed me beyond my comfort zone and has proven rewarding in some many ways. During this school term I was able to return to my former elementary school and teach a classroom of young students’ Chinese phrases and songs. This was certainly a memorable experience and earning the International Seal Diploma is a highlight of my academic career”.

Future Plans: “My future plans include majoring in International Finance”

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Sydney
School: Martha Ellen Stillwell
School of the Arts
District: Clayton County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: “By obtaining the International Skills Diploma Seal, I will be able to communicate to subsequent professional opportunities my intrinsic ability to incorporate a well-rounded approach in the global economy. My passion for innovative and inclusive learning will further enable my ability to achieve global competency throughout my college instruction and post-college graduation career.

Future Plans: “I plan to major in Film Production with a concentration in Entertainment Business and Philosophy as a full-tuition Posse Scholarship Recipient at Bard College.

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Ari
School: Maynard H. Jackson High School
District: Atlanta Public Schools



Languages studied: Chinese

ISDS Quote: "Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal is extremely rewarding. It shows that I have expressed competency in internationally-based criteria that is key in a world that is becoming more globalized. It also resonates with how much I value exploration and diversity. By receiving this award, I feel that I have established myself as a global citizen and it motivates me to continue to pursue international endeavors."

Future Plans: "I plan to major in business (concentration in marketing) at Tulane University and take advantage of its many fieldwork, language, and service study abroad opportunities. I plan to be an active member of the Tulane Asian-American Association and Vietnamese-American Association. Furthermore, in addition to Mandarin Chinese, I intend to increase my proficiency in another foreign language. I will use the same skills that led me to receive this award to gain an understanding of other cultures and international affairs that will help me become competitive in international business."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Ana
School: Milton High School
District: Fulton County Schools



Languages studied: French

ISDS Quote: "Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal means opening doors for my future. I look forward to being able to work in various locations around the world, and the ISDS will definitely help me accomplish that. I am so glad to represent Milton HS!"

Future Plans: "I plan on attending Kennesaw State University to study Civil Engineering with a minor in Foreign Languages!"

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Adésuwa
School: North Cobb School for
International Studies
District: Cobb County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish & French

ISDS Quote: “Being a recipient of the International Skills Diploma Seal is simply a symbol of my passion to know the world around me. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities I have had traveling alongside my peers and learning new languages. Earning this seal in particular is reflective of my interests in getting to know my own Nigerian heritage while celebrating the similarities and differences of others within our global economy.

Future Plans: “Following graduation, I have plans of attending the University of Chicago for a B.A. in Linguistics and Computer Science. I would like to continue my interest in language learning and advance my skills in both the Spanish and French. After my B.A., I hope to complete a five years masters program at the University of Chicago entitled Digital Studies: Language, Culture, and History. I aspire to call upon the skills I have gained within my International Studies magnet program to develop language translation technology in the future.

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Julia
School: North Forsyth High School
District: Forsyth County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: “I have always been captivated by Spanish and foreign language, and I am very excited to be receiving recognition on a project that has always been a passion of mine. “

Future Plans: “I plan to attend The University of Georgia Honors Program and participate in study abroad programs where I can utilize my knowledge of other languages and cultures.”

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Jose
School: North Springs Charter High School
District: Fulton County Schools



Languages studied: English & Spanish

ISDS Quote: “Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal represented a cultural value which makes me proud of where I belong and taught me how to interact with many people around the world.”

Future Plans: “Being able to communicate with other people will open many doors for me as a doctor, because I am already prepared to take care patients coming from different cultural perspectives.”

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Megan
School: Ola High School
District: Henry County



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: “To me, earning the International Skills Diploma Seal means earning recognition for my hard work and dedication throughout high school. Obtaining the ISDS has put me one step closer to becoming a distinguished global citizen. It has also helped to lay the foundation for my future where I hope to have a career where I can use my global citizenship in order to help other people.”

Future Plans: “After graduation, I will be attending the University of Georgia in the fall of 2020. I will be pursuing a double major in Communication Sciences and Disorders, as well as Spanish. I hope to one day become a bilingual speech pathologist and work in hospitals and schools, where I will assist English-speaking and Spanish-speaking people. I am also eager to study abroad within the next four years, and the experiences I have earned from this pursuit are certainly ones that I will utilize while doing so. The skills I obtained through pursuing my ISDS are ones that I will carry with me into my college studies, and life beyond.”

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Patience
School: Stilwell School of the Arts
District: Clayton County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "To me, earning this title extends past a seal on my diploma. In my eyes, this seal symbolizes that I have successfully cultivated myself into a multifaceted scholar not only by way of academics, but by way of cultural awareness. It is essential to be culturally sensitive and knowledgeable now more than ever, and I have taken the necessary steps to making the world a better place by first looking within myself and honing-in on the necessary skills. While the work is never finished, I fully intend on continuing the pursuit of international education.

Future Plans: "Following graduation, I will be attending Spelman College as a Biology major on the path to becoming a Neuroscientist. I also plan to pursue Spanish as my minor. A prestigious institution such as this hosts a wealth of competitive environments that I feel I am better prepared for with international skills under my belt. Academically, I will be well on my way to being a Neuroscientist that helps change the narrative of women in STEM. There's a long road ahead of me, but with the continuous pursuit of international education, I more than welcome the challenge of proactively turning my dreams into a reality.

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Kelsey
School: South Forsyth High School
District: Forsyth County Schools



Languages studied: German & Spanish

ISDS Quote: "The International Skills Diploma Seal helped show me that all of the hard work I put into these languages and studying that culture meant something. I could have chosen any other pathway to follow, but I chose foreign languages and the International Skills Diploma Seal shows the impact that these courses and cultures have had on me not just as a student, but as a person in general."

Future Plans: "I plan on attending the University of Kentucky where I will major in Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies. I will also be double minoring in both German and Spanish. My university has a great study abroad program and I am excited to take part in that. With the skills I've obtained from ISDS, I hope to build a career that places great emphasis on the importance of foreign language studies and to help bridge the gap between cultural differences.

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Bodey
School: South Paulding High School
District: Paulding County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal is a huge honor of mine. I am beyond thankful to have had the opportunity to learn another language. I want to thank all my wonderful Spanish teachers at SPHS, especially Mrs. Tiffany Strickland. Her hard work and dedication are the reasons why I can now communicate in Spanish. Thank you, Mrs. Strickland!"

Future Plans: "I will be attending the University of Georgia in the fall to pursue a degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Spanish. Eventually, I plan to return to high school as a teacher in hopes to maybe impact a student's life the way numerous teachers have impacted mine."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Kayla
School: Woodland High School
District: Henry County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal means that I have completed a goal of mine. Ever since I first heard of the seal in 9th grade, I knew I wanted to pursue it. International skills are invaluable."

Future Plans: "I plan to attend Cornell University and major in Computer Science. I am looking at either double majoring or minoring in mathematics."

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Tamecka
School: Woodland High School
District: Henry County Schools



Languages studied: French

ISDS Quote: “The International Skills Diploma Seal, to me, is a symbol of my will to learn the skills that are required of a global citizen. I also believe that the International Skills Diploma Seal will aid in my journey to, one day, positively impacting the global community.”

Future Plans: “My goal is to, one day, work with the organization, Doctors Without Borders. This organization provides medical assistance to people in medically underserved locations across the globe. The skills that I have learned while pursuing the International Skills Diploma Seal will definitely help me to communicate with and better understand the various cultures of the people that I will serve in the future.”

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Alanis
School: Woodstock High School
District: Cherokee County Schools



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: “In a world that is constantly evolving, now more than ever, people have an individual responsibility to become advocates for those who go unseen. Personally, my reason for desiring to the earn the seal revolves around the idea of opening my narrow view towards the broader vision of beauty that encompasses the reality of mankind no matter what race, religion, dialect, or creed a person identifies with. Knowing that I can be a voice for the voiceless through my own cultural experiences provides me with more fulfillment than I could ever ask for in the past four years spent at Woodstock High School.”

Future Plans: “Noting post-secondary ambitions, I recently earned a full-tuition leadership scholarship to Boston University through the Posse Foundation, where I will major in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Political Science, graduating with full Honors. Being exposed to international concepts that relate to all of humanity has most definitely allowed me to have a more conclusive view of where I can begin to act in my community right now, whether that's continuing with my non-profit “Soul to Speak” or letting the stories of others be heard on my podcast “Soul to Spark.”

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Honoring our 2020 International Skills Diploma Seal STAR Student Graduates!

First Name: Bhumy
School: Woodville Tompkins
Technical & Career High School
District: Savannah Chatham County
Public School System



Languages studied: Spanish

ISDS Quote: "Earning the International Skills Diploma Seal means that I am one step closer to my goal, which consists of speaking multiple languages and being able to travel and help people all over the world. This will open more opportunities for me and help me achieve more accomplishments throughout my career."

Future Plans: "I plan to attend UGA and earn a degree in Biology. I want to become a doctor, and with the skills I have acquired I will be able to communicate with many foreign patients and develop a stronger bond with them. I want to travel abroad and provide healthcare to the poor in countries all over the world. I also want to be a businesswoman/entrepreneur and have a diverse team so I can learn from many different perspectives and incorporate them to make my business successful."