

**LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The Governing Board recognizes that community service can help students development skills, career awareness and self-esteem. Service experiences also can motivate students by letting them apply what they are studying to local needs and problems and by showing them that they can make a contribution to their community.

The Board supports the integration of community service activities with the curriculum so as to enhance learning in all subject areas. The Board encourages staff to collaborate with local public nonprofit agencies in order to develop service learning activities that meet educational objectives and also fit in with current community efforts to meet human, educational, environmental or public safety needs.

**Community Service Classes**

The district may offer community service classes which acquaint students with the history and importance of volunteer service and with a wide range of existing community needs, including needs within the school itself.

Students may be offered volunteer opportunities which support and strengthen their academic achievement and help them recognize the relevance of what they are learning in school. Insofar as possible, such opportunities shall also be designed to help students develop cross-cultural relationships within the community.

The Superintendent or designee may limit the number of units of community service which may be applied towards high school graduation.

On a case-by-case basis, the Superintendent or designee may allow students to fulfill the community service graduation requirement by performing alternative academic tasks.

The Superintendent or designee shall determine the number of hours of service to be performed on the student's own time, outside school hours, in connection with a community service class.

The Board recognizes that students may wish to perform community service through independent study. Independent study may be arranged for this purpose when the Superintendent or designee finds it to be in the student's best interest.

**LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY  
SERVICE (Continued)**

Notifications

Parents/guardians shall receive information about the community service learning opportunities offered by the district and their benefits for both the community and the student. The district shall ask parents/guardians to acknowledge this information before students participate in off-campus service activities.

**Legal Reference:**

EDUCATION CODE:

35160	Authority of governing boards
35160.0	Board authority of school districts
51210	Areas of study, grades 1 to 6
51220	Areas of study, grades 7 to 12
51745	Independent study

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

12407	National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 Steirer et al v. Bethlehem Area School District, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cir. 1993 789 F. Supp. 1337 (E.D. PA 1992) 987 F. 2d 989
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