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Community Service Requirements

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Community Service Overview

Community Service is defined by TTUSD as "volunteer service beyond the traditional classroom that fosters civic and social responsibility for the benefit of the community that is neither paid for, graded, nor punitive."

The district agrees that the intent of the requirement is to encourage students to be active and engaged members of their communities and to address important community issues. Service can unite neighbors, mobilize volunteers and encourage a lifelong ethic of public participation, and is best performed in conjunction with a reputable public service organization. TTUSD encourages students to volunteer more than the 30 hour minimum graduation requirement.

To these ends, these guidelines for what qualifies as community service for the district graduation requirements are fairly explicit. However, it is impossible to develop a list of acceptable and unacceptable activities that is all inclusive. Therefore, it is imperative that the requirement for all activities to be approved in advance be followed explicitly. Credit for service hours will be denied if the student fails to get an activity approved in advance.

Community Service Requirement

TTUSD Board Policy 6146.1 requires that a minimum of 30 hours of unpaid community service to be performed by students as part of their graduation requirements.

SUGGESTED schedule for completion:

9th Grade: 6 hours
10th Grade: 8 hours
11th Grade: 8 hours
12th Grade 8 hours

Students are required to complete the 30 hours in order to graduate.

New students who enroll from out of the district will be required to meet only the hours suggested for the grade(s) they need to complete. For example, a student entering as a 10th grader will need to complete 24 hours. To ensure all students and parents are aware of this requirement, it is the responsibility of the site to send a parent letter home (see enclosed sample) and to make arrangements for ninth graders to receive this information during the fall of their ninth grade year.

Social Science/Advisory teachers at each grade level will be responsible for monitoring and verifying that the community service hours have been completed for each of their students. Social Science or Advisory teachers must also remind students of the pre- approval requirement for activities. Counselors will record the number of hours in Aeries. Recorded forms will be stored in the student's cum folder for future reference. Principals at each school site will determine the final cut-off date for senior community service hours to be completed to participate in graduation. The UC system gives additional points toward admission for students who complete 100 or more hours of community service.

Community Service Guidelines

Criteria

Is the activity in question servicing the community in which the student lives and works (or goes to school), and not simply servicing the school or a class or an individual related to that school? Is the student really doing community service, or is the student doing 'school service' camouflaged as community service? How exactly is the student helping said community?

Volunteerism is the core element. Examples of community service:

IS

Volunteering - Non-Profit Organization
 Community Service Clubs (not meetings)
 Helping at a hospital or convalescent home
 Assisting at Boys or Girls Clubs
 Peer tutoring after school or on weekends
 Weekend campus clean up activities
 Community events, AYSO Soccer, Little League
 Donating hair for cancer victims (2 hr. max)
 Giving blood - 2 hr. max. (o.k. during school hours if it's a school sponsored blood drive)

Is Not

Work as a student aide, office, teacher or library
 Service performed - profit-making organization
 Work during regular school hours
 Unapproved work (pre-approval required)
 After school sports, performances or activities
 Working for a teacher grading papers, etc.
 Service where a family member supervises
 Related to a class, credit or for profit
 Collecting cans, food drive or toys given
 Receiving pay for a service

Volunteer Guidelines

- **Choose an Organization**
- **Schedule a Visit**
- **Estimate a Realistic Time Commitment. Understand the Organization's Mission**
- **Request a Job Description**
- **Discuss Training and Supervision**
- **Seek Feedback**
- **Expect Respect**
- **Be Enthusiastic**
- **Keep Records**