CCPS Service Learning Fact Sheet

Service-Learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. Students improve their academic skills by applying what they learn in school to the real world; they then reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning. Service-Learning includes; preparation, identifying projects and learning skills; and action. Every student who graduates from a Maryland public school must earn 75 hours service learning hours to graduate.

MSDE Guidelines CCPS Must Follow:

- Meet a recognized need in the community
- Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning
- Reflect throughout the service-learning experience
- Develop student responsibility
- Establish community partnerships
- Plan ahead for service-learning
- Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service**.**

Service-learning experiences in Maryland must include:

1. Academic Preparation: Students must be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for their service activity. Preparation may include achieving curricular objectives, exploring the meaning of civic engagement, and learning about the community and how to identify its needs. Examples of Academic Preparation include learning from a guest speaker, meeting with a community partner, and conducting research on a particular issue or cause.

2. Service Activities: Students engage in purposeful, personally relevant service-learning experiences. Students should spend a significant portion of their service-learning time engaged in meeting a recognized community need through direct, indirect, or advocacy service action.

- **Direct Service: Students have direct contact with those they serve.**
  - Examples of Direct Service include tutoring, serving meals, visiting, providing care, etc.
- **Indirect Service: Students engage in a service activity without having direct contact, often to channel resources to help alleviate a community issue.**
  - Examples of Indirect Service include providing technical assistance, hosting food and clothing drives, organizing walk-a-thons and fundraisers, participating in environmental projects, et**c.**
- **Advocacy Service: Students educate others about a particular nonpartisan topic with the goal of influencing change within a community.**
  - Examples of Advocacy Service include contacting legislators, presenting before public officials, preparing and delivering a performance, creating and sharing media or other educational materials, etc**.**

3. Structured Reflection: Students participate in ongoing reflection throughout a service-learning experience. This is fulfilled through filling out the CCPS Service Learning Form.

CCPS Service Learning Facts

- Students earn service learning hours through some courses they take during the school year. Please reference this list for specific course information.
- Students earn service-learning hours if their service-learning projects meet MSDE guidelines.
- Only CCPS Service-Learning Coordinators and School Administrators can approve hours.
- You can check your service learning hours by going to Carroll County Home Access (HAC) . Then, going to GRADES, Then click on TEST SCORES. Hours students earn in a course will be updated at the end of the school year. All student submitted hours are updated regularly by the School Service Learning Coordinator.
- Service Learning must meet a need for the whole community and not benefit a single person, a religion or a business.
- Service-Learning Hours **CAN NOT** be earned working as an aide, teacher assistants (or similar titles) at for profit businesses like daycares, gymnastic studios, karate studios, dance studios, sport camps, or similar for-profit businesses.
- Students **CAN NOT** earn service-learning hours working for the benefit or the promotion of a specific religion.
- Service learning hours **CAN BE** earned by camp counselors or activity assistants in denominational summer camps such as Vacation Bible School but only when the program is advertised to and attended by the non-denominational public. Service learning hours are awarded only for secular curriculum and secular programming or recreation, such as sports, swimming, secular crafts, serving snacks, etc. Service learning hours cannot be earned for any activities that involve prayer, liturgy, or the furtherance of religious tradition.
- Service Learning hours **CAN BE** earned by providing childcare while parents attend meetings at a religious organization, but only when the meetings address a community need and/or serve a population beyond the faith membership and do not support a for-profit business. Eligible activities might include teaching English classes, offering workshops open to the public, blood drives, fitness classes, non-denominational music gatherings. Service learning hours cannot be earned for meetings for congregation members only, and/or those that are focused on religion or worship.



- Please ASK your Building Service Learning Coordinator before performing service learning hours at any business regardless of them telling you they are approved to give hours. No business is approved by CCPS to give service learning hours. Only CCPS Service Learning Coordinators or CCPS Administrators can approve service learning hours.
- Past approval of hours at an organization(businesses/for profit)does not automatically mean it will be approved again. MSDE guidelines must be followed.
- For More detailed information on Service Learning please go to the CCPS Service Learning website or please reach out to your Building Service Learning Coordinator.