Charles County Public Schools

Service Learning Program

Student Service Learning Overview

Service-learning education links academic learning with student service that benefits the community. Service-learning includes academic preparation, service activities and structured reflection. Students study the community, identify problems, propose solutions, implement the solution, and reflect the impact of the service.

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Student Service Learning Overview

A student belonging to the system for grades 6-10 must complete 12 units of **Preparation, Action and Reflection (PAR).** A student transferring into the system will be held responsible for the units during which they are in the system. If a student transfers in after the completion of the 9th grade, they must complete 3 units of PAR in an independent study project form. All activities/programs are based on MSDE identified Best Practices.

Student Service Learning Overview

Charles County SSL Components by Grade and PAR Unit

Grade	Preparation	Action	Reflection	Total Hours
6 Language Arts	**2**	**6**	**2**	**10**
7 Science	**6**	**17**	**2**	**25**
8 Health	**5**	**8**	**2**	**15**
10 LSN Government	**6**	**17**	**2**	**25**
Total Hours	**19**	**48**	**8**	**75**

Student Service Learning
7 Best Practices

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

Student Service Learning 'PAR' Units

Preparation Unit

Students identify a community need then use knowledge and resources available to meet this need. Preparation includes documenting what students have learned about an issue and how they plan to address the identified community need.
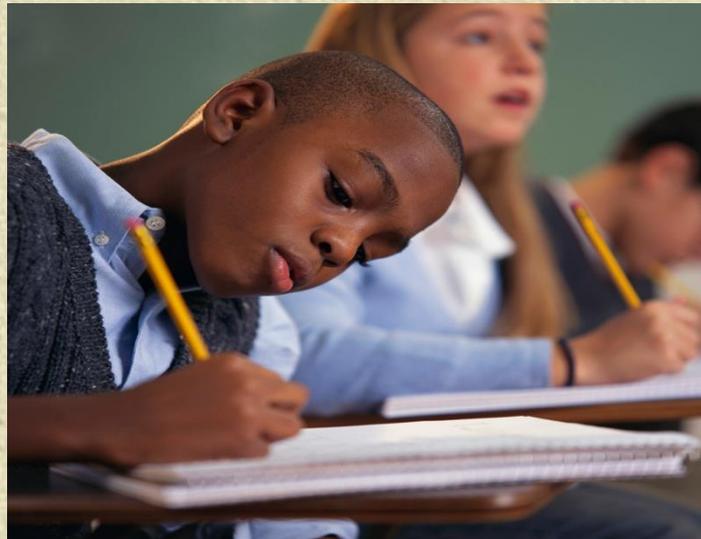
Action Unit

Action is the actual performing of the activity or project, which helps meet the particular need within the community. The activities may involve direct, indirect, or advocacy service projects. *Direct Service* includes activities which are "hands on". *Indirect Service* includes activities which are performed "behind the scenes". *Advocacy* involves activities which provide opportunities for students to lend their voices and talents to address the issue.

Reflection Unit

Reflection is an expression of the meaningfulness of the students' service-learning experience to themselves and, as they perceive it, to the community. Reflection may be done in written or verbal format.

Student Service Learning Grade 6

✳ Beginning in the 6th grade, students conduct the Preparation, Action and Reflection aspects of SSL in Language Arts, earning 3 PAR units of SSL.

Student Service Learning Grade 7

In the 7th grade Science and Language Arts classes, students participate in Preparation, Action and Reflection (PAR), earning 3 PAR units of SSL.

Student Service Learning Grade 8

- ✳ In the 8th grade Health and Language Arts classes, students complete Preparation, Action and Reflection for 3 PAR units of SSL.

Student Service Learning Grade 10

In the 10th grade Local, State and National Government class, students complete Preparation, Action and Reflection for 3 PAR units of SSL.

Student Service Learning Transfer Policy

For out-of-county students transferring to our system after the 10th grade, any service-learning recorded on the permanent record is accepted by Charles County Public Schools. A student transferring to our system from out-of-state will be held responsible for the units during which they are in Charles County. If the student has not completed service-learning by the conclusion of 10th grade, an independent study packet that contains all the aspects of Preparation – Action – Reflection must be completed.
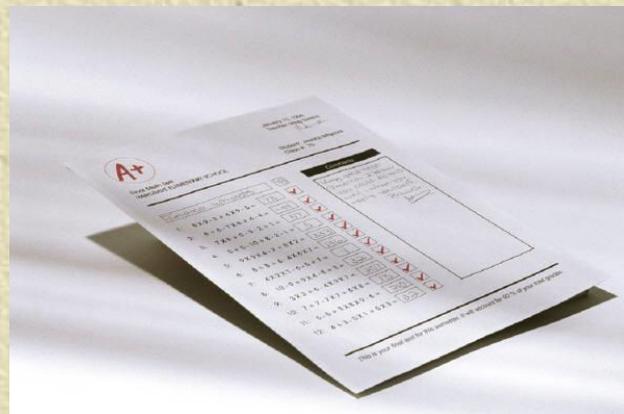
Student Service Learning Individual Study Packet

The Individual Study Packet is for Charles county students who have not completed one or more elements of their service-learning requirement in grades 6 – 10. It requires students to work independently on a service-learning project of their choice, by receiving approval from and consulting with the school-based SSL coordinator.
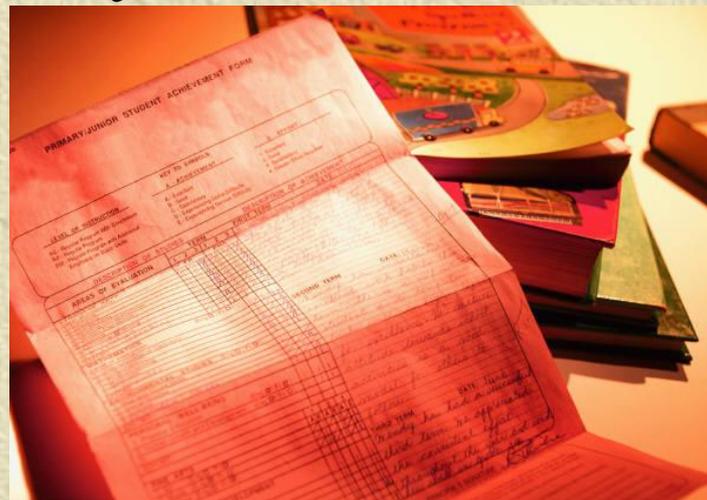
Student Service Learning Reporting

Service-learning is recorded on the report card for each grade level completion and then for system completion. For each grade level, all units must be accomplished for a student to be designated as having completed their SSL requirement. Synergy has information on the status of each student in the service-learning program.

Student Service Learning Quality Review Process

Charles county middle and high school SSL Coordinators complete and submit a Program Description and an evaluation (Quality Review) of their school-based program each year.

Student Service Learning School Coordinators…

* **maintain extensive records** on students who have/have not completed the program satisfactorily;
* work with the administration, faculty, and parents to **coordinate student completion**;
* **develop and disseminate information** to staff, students and the public on the concept and requirements of the program, particularly graduation requirements;
* **meet periodically with individual students** who need clarification on the process, projects, or paperwork involved in the SSL process;
* **act as a liaison** for the SSL program between school and community, and between the school and Central Office; and
* **provide technical information/assistance to teachers** regarding ideas for SSL projects and advice on compliance of student SSL projects.

Student Service Learning CCPS Contacts

* <u>Allen Hopkins</u>: Social Studies Content Specialist
  Voice: (301) 934-7443
  Email: <u>ghopkins@ccboe.com</u>

* <u>Lisa Love</u>: Administrative Assistant
  Voice: (301) 934-7389
  Email: <u>llove@ccboe.com</u>

Student Service Learning Information Links

- [MSDE Service-Learning Web Page](#)

- [CCPS Service-Learning Web Page](#)

- [CCPS School Coordinator Contacts](#)

Student Service Learning
"Points to Ponder"

1. For a service-learning experience to be valid, it must address all 7 of the Best Practices as outlined by MSDE.

    True, all service learning must meet the criteria outlined in the 7 Best Practices.

Student Service Learning "Points to Ponder"

2. Students must arrange their own opportunities to reach the required 75 hours of service-learning.

False. Charles County Public Schools has a locally designed program that emphasizes the quality of the service-learning experience, and not the quantity of hours. This program is embedded into middle and high school coursework.

Student Service Learning "Points to Ponder"

3. Direct service activities (face-to-face contact) is only one method by which student can engage in service-learning.

True. In addition to direct action, students can engage in indirect service (food/clothing drives, fundraisers, etc.) and advocacy projects (letters to officials/editors, public announcements/displays related to issues) are also acceptable.

Student Service Learning "Points to Ponder"

4. The service-learning experience is exclusively a Social Studies curricular activity.

False. Charles County Public Schools integrates the service-learning experience in the Health, Language Arts, and Science, and Social Studies program from grades 6 through 10.

Student Service Learning "Points to Ponder"

5. It is easy to obtain reliable information about the service-learning program and requirements.

True. The MSDE website has service-learning information available. Additionally, the Charles County Public Schools website also has documents and links with important service-learning information.

Student Service Learning

Thank you for your time!!!

Questions?