

LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Governing Board recognizes that community service can help students develop 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.

Integrated Community Service

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 and 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 will also be designed to help students develop cross-cultural relationships within the community.

The superintendent or designee may develop and establish a course of study allowing students to earn community service credit which may be applied towards high school graduation. The credits may not exceed 5 semester credits. This course of study must be approved by the Board prior to implementation.

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.

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.

Adopted: September 10, 2008