

Instruction

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

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. (cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

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 next page)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160	Authority of governing boards
35160.1	Broad 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

12501-12682	National and Community Service Trust
Act of 1993	

COURT DECISIONS

Steirer et al v. Bethlehem Area School District, 3rd Cir. 1993 789
F. Supp. 1337 (E. D. Pa 1992) 987 F.2d 989

Adopted: 11-02 Santa Ana, CA