

Instruction

SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASSES

The Board of Trustees recognizes that service learning can enhance students develop skills and knowledge necessary to become informed and responsible citizens, and aid in individual career development. Service experiences may also motivate students by providing them with the opportunity to apply their studies to school and community needs and showing them that they can make a contribution to their community through involved citizenship.

Community Service Classes

The district shall offer community service classes which acquaint students in grades 7-12 with the history and importance of volunteer services and with a wide range of identified school community needs. Students shall be offered volunteer opportunities which support and strengthen their understanding of academic instruction and help them recognize the relevance of what they are learning in school and how it relates to their community.

Notifications

Parents/guardians shall receive information about the service learning or community service 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 and provide consent before their child participates in any off-campus service activities.

- (cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
- (cf. 6000 - Concepts and Roles)
- (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
- (cf. 6030 - Integrated Academic and Vocational Instruction)
- (cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)
- (cf. 1600 - Relations Between other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
- (cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)
- (cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
- (cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)
- (cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
- (cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 233.5 Teaching of principles
- 35160 Authority of governing boards
- 35160.1 Broad authority of school districts
- 37220.6 Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning
- 51210 Areas of study, grades 1-6
- 51220 Areas of study, grades 7-12
- 51745 Independent study

SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASSES- (continued)

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

12501-12682 National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993

COURT DECISIONS

Steirer et al v. Bethlehem School District, (1993) 987 F.2d 989

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Service Learning: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/sl>

Learn and Serve America: <http://www.learnandserve.org>

National Service Learning Clearinghouse: <http://www.servicelearning.org>

Youth Service California: <http://www.yscal.org>

(12/89)

7/22/92

2/95

3/07

12/12/07

Instruction

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Program Description

Community service classes shall acquaint students with the history and importance of volunteer service and with various existing community needs, including needs within the school itself.

Students shall be offered volunteer opportunities which support and strengthen their academic achievement and help them recognize the relevance of what they are learning in school. Such opportunities also may help them to:

1. Develop multicultural relationships within the community.
2. Appreciate the democratic ideal of equal treatment for all citizens.
3. Learn the importance of environmental conservation.
4. Understand the values, goals and quality of life which the community considers important.
5. Develop flexibility in order to realize that changes are necessary throughout life.

Students shall be encouraged to volunteer in areas which interest them personally.

Staff shall provide student volunteers with opportunities to discuss the value of their service experiences with their peers.

Program Supervision

School staff shall regularly visit community agencies to observe student volunteers and help them solve service-related problems.

School staff shall monitor the attendance of students at designated community service sites and shall maintain attendance records.

Student Credits

1. The student's accomplishment of written objectives established and agreed upon by the community organization, school staff member, student and parent/guardian; and
2. The student's completion of a written essay or a speech related to his/her community service experiences.

Community service classes shall be offered on a "credit/no credit" basis.

COMMUNITY SERVICES (continued)

Student Responsibilities

Transportation to the community service site shall be the student's responsibility.

In case of illness, the student shall inform both the community agency and the staff member responsible for monitoring attendance. Students shall be held accountable for attendance in the same manner as that used for the regular school program.

The community agency or district staff may terminate any student's volunteer placement if the student's conduct is unsatisfactory.