

Policy 6142.4: Service Learning/Community Service Classes

The Governing Board recognizes that student involvement in community service enhances academic outcomes, helps students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become informed and responsible citizens, and aids in individual career development. The district shall offer separate community service classes and/or service learning opportunities that are integrated into other courses. Such classes and activities shall be designed to link academic content, practical skills, and meaningful service contributions to the community.

Service Learning

The Superintendent or designee shall integrate service learning opportunities into one or more courses at appropriate grade levels.

The Superintendent or designee shall involve administrators, students, teachers, parents/guardians, and community members in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's service learning program. They shall also collaborate with local public agencies and nonprofit organizations to identify and develop service learning opportunities that meet educational and civic learning objectives, align with state and local academic standards, and address the needs of the community.

When service learning activities occur off campus, the Superintendent or designee shall arrange for transportation when necessary and shall ensure that students receive appropriate guidance and supervision.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Governing Board with regular reports on the district's progress in meeting its goals for service learning.

Community Service Classes

The district may offer community service classes in any of grades 7-8. Such classes shall be designed to:

1. Acquaint students with the historical basis for volunteer service, its importance and relevance, and its connection to a wide range of identified school and community needs
2. Include volunteer opportunities that support and strengthen students' understanding of the academic instruction and how it relates to their community

3. Contribute to the physical, mental, moral, economic, and/or civic development of students
4. Provide students with an awareness of potential careers

If off-campus activities are included, the Superintendent or designee shall determine how students will be transported to the off-campus location and shall ensure adequate supervision of students during the activity.

Notifications

Parents/guardians shall receive information about service learning and any community service opportunities offered by the district and the benefits of such activities to 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.