

SERVICE LEARNING

The Board of Education recognizes that service learning is the most powerful school-based community service model, with the potential to improve academic and civic values outcomes for students. Through participation in service learning, students gain the skills and demonstrate the competence they need to function as citizens and future leaders.

In order to promote Citizenship Education through Service Learning in all schools, the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and his/her designees to develop Service Learning programs which will:

- help foster the development of a sense of caring for others;
- connect citizenship experiences with academic learning to promote and encourage lifelong habits of learning and public service;
- be integrated into the students' academic curricula and provide structured time for student reflection, i.e., to think, read, talk, or write about what the students experienced during the actual service activity;
- require students to identify, plan, and participate in the development and implementation of programs to ensure the emergence of youth responsibility and leadership;
- enhance what is taught in schools by extending student learning beyond the classroom and into the school, neighborhood, and the community-at-large;
- provide students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real-life situations in their own communities; and
- meet actual community needs through the collaboration of schools and the community as partners.

This policy shall be annually reviewed by the Superintendent. His/Her review shall be publicly reported to the Board so that the policy's effectiveness and implementation throughout the district may be assessed.

Note: Prior policy, Policy Manual, Policy for Service Learning (September 21, 1995), revised

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