

**Instruction**

**SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASSES**

The Governing Board recognizes that service learning can enhance students develop skills and knowledge necessary to become informed and responsible global 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 may 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall determine criteria and methods of assessing students and awarding credits for the class.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

**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.

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

(cf. 5143 - Insurance)

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

51810-51815 Community service classes

**UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42**

12501-12682 National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993

Legal Reference continued: (see next page)

**SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASSES**

Legal Reference: (continued)

**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>

Corporation for National and Community Service: <http://www.nationalservice.gov>

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

(12/89)  
7/22/92  
2/95  
3/07  
12/12/07  
3/8/17

## **Instruction**

### **SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASSES**

#### **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.

**SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASSES (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.