

6142.4 Community Service

Note: This regulation addresses only the community service activities/projects of students. For information relating to advertising and promotion of goods and services please refer to Board Policy 1325: Advertising and Promotions.

The Governing Board recognizes that community service can help students develop skills, career awareness and self esteem. Service experiences also can motivate students by showing them they can make a contribution to their community and by letting them apply what they are studying to local, national or global needs and problems.

The Board supports the integration of community service activities with the curriculum so as to enhance learning in all subject areas. The Board encourages collaboration with local public and non-profit 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 projects at schools shall be approved by the site administrator, who shall take into account the age appropriateness of the project, course of study, if applicable, and the need for supervision of participating students. Before approval for any given community service project is given, the site administrator shall ensure that:

1. The project is a collaboration with a legitimate organization, such as a licensed public agency or a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency. A project may be approved for a for-profit organization that benefits the community and is meant to be a community service event or project.
2. The agency's purpose and mission statement are sound and for the betterment of the community either at large or for groups specified in the organization's purpose or mission statement.
3. The nature of the work will be helping others in need and will primarily benefit the local community, although approval may also be given for projects with agencies that are local but helping a community elsewhere in the United States or internationally.
4. If the student will have direct contact with others, that such contact will be safe and supervised by adult representatives of the school.
5. If the selected agency is a faith-based organization, that the activities and the content of any flyers distributed are not proselytizing.

In approving any community service project, the site administrator may also take into consideration the reputation of the agency in the community at large, the individuals representing the agency and their individual and group backgrounds, the location and safety measures of the organization, and the type of contact involved: whether direct, indirect, or advocacy.

The site administrator shall determine when written parent consent is required for student participation in a community service project. When written parent consent is required, the school will provide parents with information about the project and what each project entails, and will then provide documentation for parents to complete indicating their approval in writing of their child's participation in the project.

Each community service project shall be supervised closely by a District teacher or other District employee who shall be familiar with the project and shall have made advance preparation with the agency prior to the start of the students' community service.

Board Approved:

April 7, 2011

Effective Date: April 7, 2011