

COMMUNITY SERVICE/SERVICE LEARNING

The Board of Trustees recognizes that community service can help students develop skills, career preparation and self-esteem. Service experiences can motivate students by letting them apply what they are studying to local needs and problems and by showing them that they can make a contribution to their community. Community service motivates students to learn by relating the curriculum to the needs of the community at large.

Beginning with the graduating Class of 2024, students enrolled in the Salinas Union High School District must complete a graduation requirement to serve the Salinas community with 40 hours of community service.

The Board of Trustees desires that all students develop a sense of social responsibility. To encourage this development, the District shall offer students the opportunity to perform volunteer service in cooperation with nonprofit community agencies and educational entities.

The Board supports the integration of community services activities with the curriculum to enhance learning in all subject areas. The Board encourages staff to collaborate with local public and nonprofit agencies to develop service learning activities that meet educational objectives and fit current community efforts to meet human, educational, environmental or public safety needs.

Students may be offered volunteer opportunities that support and strengthen their academic achievement, employability skills and help them recognize the relevance of what they are learning in school. Insofar as possible, such opportunities shall also be designed to help students develop cross-cultural relationships within the community.

Service clubs or organizations at the schools' awards ceremonies may recognize graduating seniors if the school wishes. Each school may determine whether or not to recognize these students publicly at the graduation ceremony.

Parents/guardians may receive information about available community service learning opportunities from their local school. The District requires that parents/guardians pre-approve all service activities.

Neither the Salinas High Union School District, its officers, employees, agents, nor the supervisor shall be responsible or in any way liable for the conduct or safety of students at any time when student are not on school property.

The Salinas Union High School District does not vet student community service projects and, consequently, makes no guarantees or representations regarding the safety or suitability of such sites or projects. Further, the Salinas Union High School District does

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not provide transportation to or from the sites of community service projects, does not provide staff to oversee such projects, and does not otherwise undertake the supervision of or responsibility for students while they are performing off-campus community service. Accordingly, parents/guardians are advised and encouraged to evaluate community service programs before granting pre-approval of their child's participation in such service activities.

Other Districts Credits or Documentation:

Students entering the Salinas Union High School District with documented Community Service will have those hours ~~or project~~ accepted by the Salinas Union High School District.

Waiver of Requirement:

The principal cannot waive the Community Service/ graduation requirement.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[35160](#) Authority of governing boards

[35160.1](#) Broad authority of school Districts

[51210](#) Areas of study, grades 1 to 6

[51220](#) Areas of study, grades 7 to 12

[51745](#) Independent study

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

[12501](#) - 12682 National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993

COURT DECISIONS

Steirer et al v. Bethlehem Area School District, 3rd Cir. 1993 789 F.Supp. 1337 (E.D. Pa 1992) 987 F.2d 989

Policy Adopted: 2/24/98

Amended: 9/26/00

Revised: 10/12/04

Reviewed and Retained as is: August 14, 2007

Adopted: May 27, 2014