

Student Service-Learning

What other opportunities are available for my child to earn hours?

All students may participate in independent projects which meet community needs. Most community projects are direct service, giving students the opportunity for contact with the population being served.

Some examples of appropriate independent projects may include:

- tutoring younger students
- working in soup kitchens
- raising money for a charitable cause
- one-on-one interactions with residents of an assisted living/nursing facility
- participating in a library reading program
- collecting supplies for a homeless shelter

**** Infusion Hours****

Please note: Infusion hours (work completed in class) will show on the 4th quarter report card.

What **SERVICE-LEARNING** is not

Community Service, Work Study, or Compensatory Service

Community Service/Volunteerism:

Definition: Participation in activities of caring and/or citizenship in the school or community where the focus is on ACTION only. Preparation and reflection are not required.

EXAMPLES: clerical work, shelving books, raking leaves, cleaning, custodial work, concession stands or sales, chores, decorating for school dance

NOTE: Service-learning projects approved and/or coordinated by the local school **may not** be used as court mandated service hours. Separate projects **MUST** be completed in order to satisfy both requirements for graduation and for the court.

Work Study:

Definition: Participation in any activity whose primary purpose is to learn career/employment skills.

EXAMPLES: Career shadow days, internships, clerical skills

Compensatory Service:

Any community service activities mandated by the court

Student Service Learning Most Commonly Asked Questions

Day Care

Q: *Are students allowed to earn their service-learning hours at a licensed day care center?*

A: Yes, as long as the student is not taking the place of a paid employee. The center must be licensed (a copy of the license must be presented to the Service-Learning Coordinator) and the student must be working directly with children to promote healthy child development.

Clerical/Custodial

Q: *Does clerical/custodial work count for service-learning hours?*

A: Clerical/custodial tasks may be a **component** of many valuable service-learning projects. However, these tasks must be done in a nonprofit organization and cannot be more than 25% of the experience (e.g. answering phones, stuffing and labeling envelopes, collating, stapling, filing, faxing, sweeping, mowing lawns, taking out trash).

Teacher's Aide

Q: *Can I work with my favorite teacher as an aide and get service-learning hours?*

A: Yes, if it is direct service for other students (tutoring, educational displays or resources). Using a copy machine, grading papers, washing boards, cleaning room, clapping erasers, etc. can be considered clerical and will not count.

Religion

Q: *My child is heavily involved in our religious organization. What activities will count for service-learning hours?*

A: There are many activities through religious organizations that students can use to earn service-learning hours. These include: preparing and serving meals to homeless; working in shelters; clothing/food drives; community improvements/renovations; participating in community clean-up projects; or participating in vacation bible school (if not teaching religious content). As specified by the federal guidelines on the separation of church and state, service that is conducted for religious practice will not be counted for service-learning hours. This includes activities such as Altar services, Acolytes, choir, teaching and/or assisting in the teaching of Bible/Sunday school, and setting up for religious services.

Babysitting

Q: *Can my child babysit for free and have it count for service-learning hours?*

A: No, you cannot babysit for neighbors, friends, or family for free and earn service-learning hours. However, if the student is providing a service that helps meet a community need,

such as babysitting during PTA meetings or Parents Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at the site of the meeting, these hours would count.