

SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASSES

Note: The California Department of Education (CDE) defines "service learning" as an instructional strategy in which community service opportunities are integrated into the curriculum, with the goal of enhancing the core curriculum and helping students meet academic standards and develop a sense of civic responsibility. **that integrates community service opportunities into the curriculum and engages students in real-world problem solving.** "Community service" also provides opportunities for students to volunteer for the benefit of the community, but is a separate course. **Such opportunities are applicable to a variety of disciplines, but are particularly relevant to the development of civic responsibility and are an important component of civic education.**

By helping students acquire civic knowledge and skills, service learning is an important component of civic education. In California, academic standards and guidelines for **service learning**, civics, and government are included in the state's **history-social science content** standards and the curriculum framework for history/social science **History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools**, as adopted by the State Board of Education on July 14, 2016. See BP 6142.3 - Civic Education and BP 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction.

The following **optional** policy should be modified to reflect the types of strategies and grade levels offered by the district.

The Governing Board recognizes that **service learning can student involvement in community service** enhances academic outcomes, helps students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become informed and responsible citizens, and aids in individual career development. **Service learning experiences may also motivate students by providing them 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. The district shall offer separate community service classes and/or service learning opportunities that are integrated into other courses. Such classes and activities shall be designed to link academic content, practical skills, and meaningful service contributions to the community.**

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 6000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Based Learning)

Service Learning

Note: The following **optional** section is for use by districts that have integrated service learning into the curriculum and should be modified to reflect district practice. Various funding sources are available for districts implementing this strategy, including Learn and Serve America, a federal grant program through the National and Community Service Trust Act; the CDE's CalServe Initiative, a statewide regional service

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~~learning network; and districtwide school community partnerships. Separate federal and state funding for service learning has been eliminated; however, many districts continue to support the use of service learning as an instructional method. Further information is available on the CDE's web site.~~

The Superintendent or designee shall integrate service learning opportunities into one or more courses at appropriate grade levels.

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

~~The Board supports service learning instructional strategies as integral components of the district's curriculum. The Board encourages staff to~~ **The Superintendent or designee shall involve** administrators, students, teachers, parents/guardians, and community members in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's ~~plan~~ **service learning program;** including a determination as to how projects will be evaluated as well as how supervision and transportation issues will be addressed. ~~He/she shall also~~ collaborate with local public agencies and nonprofit ~~agencies organizations in order to~~ **identify and** develop service learning ~~activities opportunities~~ that meet educational **and civic learning** objectives, align with state and local academic standards, and address ~~current community the~~ **needs of the community.**

(cf. 1600 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

When service learning activities occur off campus, the Superintendent or designee shall arrange for transportation when necessary and shall ensure that students receive appropriate guidance and supervision.

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a service learning plan which:

- ~~1. Integrates service learning into one or more of the core academic areas of science, English, social science, or mathematics at each grade span (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and includes instructional formats planned by teachers and students~~
- ~~2. Ensures that the service learning opportunities offered by the district help meet identified community needs and include a balance of on-campus and off-campus activities~~
- ~~3. Involves administrators, students, teachers, parents/guardians, and community members in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's plan, including how projects will be evaluated as well as how supervision and transportation issues will be addressed~~

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The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with regular reports on the **implementation of the plan and its effectiveness district's progress** in meeting **the district's its** goals for service learning.

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

Community Service Classes

Note: The following **optional** section is for use by districts **with grades 7-12 that** offer separate community service classes **in any of grades 7-12 or through adult education, under the authority of Education Code 51220** and should be modified to reflect district practice.

The district ~~shall~~ **may** offer community service classes **in any of grades 7-12 and/or through the district's adult education program. which:** **Such classes shall be designed to:**

1. Acquaint students with the **historical basis for** volunteer service, **its importance and relevance,** and **its connection to** ~~with~~ a wide range of identified school and community needs.
2. ~~Students shall be offered volunteer opportunities which~~ **Include volunteer opportunities that** ~~Support and strengthen their students' understanding of the~~ academic instruction and ~~help them recognize the relevance of what they are learning in school and~~ how it relates to their community
3. **Contribute to the physical, mental, moral, economic, and/or civic development of students**
4. **Provide students with an awareness of potential careers**

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

If off-campus activities are included, **the Superintendent or designee shall determine how students will be transported to the off-campus location and shall ensure adequate supervision of students during the activity.**

Note: The following **optional** paragraph is for use by districts that require community service **for as a** high school graduation **requirement**. Such districts should also list the course in district policy detailing requirements for high school graduation. See BP 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements. Because California courts have not addressed the issue of mandatory service courses, it is recommended that districts **requiring community service** provide an alternative means whereby students who object to the service may fulfill the requirement.

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The district's community service course shall be required for high school graduation. On a case-by-case basis, the Superintendent or designee may allow students to fulfill the community service graduation requirement by performing alternative academic tasks.

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

The Superintendent or designee shall determine **how criteria and methods of assessing students and awarding credits for the class.** ~~shall be awarded and how students will be evaluated, supervised, and, if off-campus activities are included, transported to the off-campus location.~~

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

Notifications

Note: The district should notify parents/guardians of the different service learning opportunities available and obtain their consent for any off-campus activities. In order to protect the district against liability and to help ensure adequate insurance coverage, the Superintendent should consult with the district's risk manager, insurance carrier, or legal counsel.

Parents/guardians shall receive information about **the** service learning ~~or~~ **and any** community service opportunities offered by the district and ~~their~~ **the** benefits ~~for both of such activities to~~ the community and ~~the~~ **if** 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: (see next page)

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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

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>

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

Learn and Serve America: <http://www.learnandserve.org>

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

Youth Service California: <http://www.yscal.org>