Can students earn awards for participating in extra service-learning projects?

Students who wish to advance their service-learning opportunities can do so starting in 6th grade. If students complete a total of **132 hours** <u>beyond</u> **the initial 75 required hours** by the end of 12th grade, they will qualify for the Service-Learning Elective Credit and other awards of recognition. To earn a Service-Learning Elective Credit, students can have a mix between curriculum based and independent projects. Students are required to document these hours by completing and turning in a reflection/verification form, which can be obtained from any teacher, guidance office, or from the BOE website. Students are strongly encouraged to keep a log of additional hours.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact:
Allegany County Public Schools
Service-Learning Coordinator
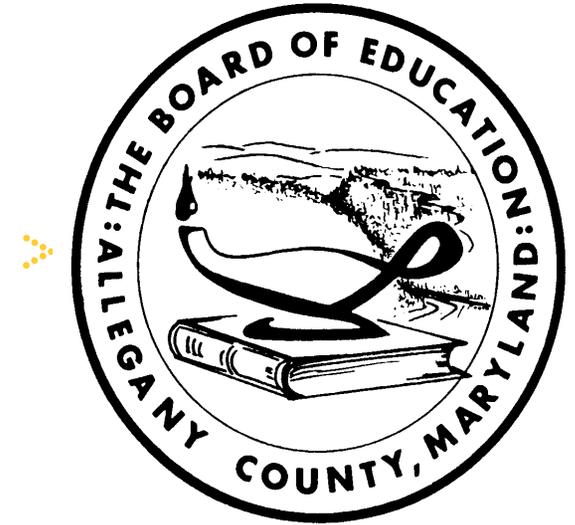*Kara Kennell*
301-759-2042
kara.kennell@acpsmd.org

Maryland's Seven Best Practices of Service-Learning

1. Meet a Recognized Need in the Community
2. Achieve Curricular Objectives through Service-Learning
3. Reflect throughout Service-Learning Experience
4. Develop Student Responsibility
5. Establish Community Partnerships
6. Plan Ahead for Service-Learning
7. Equip Students with Knowledge and Skills Needed for Service

ACPS Service-Learning Program

What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. Students improve their academic skills by applying what they learn in school to the real world; they then reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning. -- Learning in Deed

Three Essential Steps to Service-Learning:

Preparation is the first step of s-l in which students cooperate with teachers and community members to identify issues affecting the community:

Action is the next step of s-l in which students carry out their service. Projects can take place in school or in the community.
Direct, Indirect, or Advocacy

Reflection is the final step of s-l in which students look back upon the project and review what they have learned (journals, discussions, scrapbooks, etc).

What is the Service-Learning Requirement?

All students receiving a Maryland high school diploma are required to complete 75 hours of service-learning (or a determined pro-rated amount for qualifying high school students) prior to graduation from high school.

How will ACPS students meet the requirement?

Students earn hours for completing service projects that are part of the required curriculum during __school hours__ in the following grades and/or courses:

*Possible courses embedding service-learning projects

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	High School
English	*	*	*	*
Science	*	*	*	*
Social Studies	*	*	*	*
Math	*	*	*	
Creative Arts/ Health	*	*	*	*
Rocky Gap Outdoor School		*		
Total hours required	15 Hours	30 Hours	15 Hours	15 Hours

Reporting

At the end of each school year, student hours will automatically be generated on the report card. This will inform parents and students of the status of completed requirements for that year. PASS will appear on the report card in high school when all hours are met.