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 beyond 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.

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

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

The Board of Education of Allegany County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion or disability in matters affecting employment or the provision of service, programs or activities in compliance with the American with Disability Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. An Equal Opportunity Employer.
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 service-learning in which students cooperate with teachers and community members to identify issues affecting the community.

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

Reflection is the final step of service-learning in which students look back upon the project and review what they have learned. Reflection may be done individually (journals, scrapbooks, artwork, etc) or as a group (discussion, skits, 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 a part of the required curriculum during school hours in the following grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6th Grade 15 Hours</th>
<th>7th Grade 30 Hours</th>
<th>8th Grade 15 Hours</th>
<th>9th Grade 15 Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Gap Outdoor School</td>
<td>30 Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service-Learning Orientation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reporting

At the end of each school year, students’ hours will automatically be generated on the report card. This will inform parents and students of the status of completed requirements for that year. At the end of 9th grade, if a student has fulfilled the service-learning requirement, PASS appears on the report card along with the hours completed.

However, if a student does not complete the service-learning requirement by the end of the 9th grade, the number of hours will appear and PASS will be added only when he/she completes the requirement in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.