

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING  
GENERAL GUIDELINES

**DEFINITION:** Although payment for services is possible, community service learning is typically an unpaid activity within the curriculum, school or outside community that provides service to an individual or group in order to address a school or community need. The activity must be developmentally appropriate and must be meaningful to the student.

By participating in community service learning, a student will have opportunities to:

- develop knowledge and respect for the community while developing citizenship skills.
- learn that problems can be solved by working together, especially in regard to communication skills.
- learn the responsibilities involved in good citizenship and developing a good work ethic.
- explore career opportunities which may influence one's course of study.
- increase one's own self-esteem and develop an appreciation for other people.
- become sensitive to the needs of others and appreciate cultural diversity.
- overcome barriers among and between other people and oneself.

Students may begin to earn student service hours during the summer before 9<sup>th</sup> grade, which may provide a constructive activity for many students who may be unable to secure summer employment, yet are eager to become a member of the adult world.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** Community Service Learning provides students an opportunity to gain educational experiences through participation in thoughtfully organized community service activities. Students help to meet needs in the community while sponsoring organizations help to enrich the Plainfield High School curriculum.

**STUDENT PROPOSAL:** Students are encouraged to propose ideas of their own for community service learning. Students may also consider proposals presented through the school or community. School-to-Career opportunities will receive special consideration.

**INSTRUCTION:** Ten (10) hours of related classroom instruction or an alternative learning experience will be required prior to performing the service.

**SERVICE:** Fifty (50) hours of supervised community service must be completed in an agreed upon time frame.

**STUDENT LOG:** Students must keep a daily log for recording, analyzing, and evaluating their daily activities. Entries in the log must be initialed by the mentor who oversees the service.

**EVALUATION:** An evaluation form will be completed by the student, the teacher, and the community service mentor at the conclusion of the field experience.

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CULMINATING PROJECT: A culminating project such as a research paper, classroom presentation, scrapbook, exhibit, video or portfolio production will be completed before credit is granted.

CREDIT: Students may earn ½ credit per year for a successful Community Service Learning project.

Proposed: 9/10/97  
Adopted: 10/08/97  
Reaffirm: 3/9/16