

## FAQ by Students

- 1. Why do I have to do Student Service Learning?** It is a Maryland State graduation requirement.
- 2. Who can approve SSL projects?** The SSL Coordinator or LSN Government teacher will approve a project prior to the student's beginning the project.
- 3. Who is responsible for signing off on the finished project?** The teacher, sponsor, counselor or SSL Coordinator may verify the completion of a project (units) by signed verification document.
- 4. What happens if the requirements are not met?** The student will not receive a Maryland high school diploma.

### TRANSFER POLICY:

For out-of-county students transferring to our system after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, any service-learning recorded on the permanent record is accepted by Charles County Public Schools. A student transferring to our system from out-of-state will be held responsible for the units during which they are in Charles County. If the student has not completed service-learning by the conclusion of 9<sup>th</sup> grade, an independent study guide/seminar must be completed.

### REPORTING:

Service Learning is recorded on the report card.

## RESOURCES

- County Non-Profit Organizations
- CCPS Home Page Link:  
[www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com)
- SSL Website:  
[www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/servicelearning/](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/servicelearning/)
- Service-Learning Websites

### SSL Coordinators:

Please contact your specific schools for further information on the Student Service Learning Program in Charles County Public Schools.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

The Charles County Public School system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Keith Grier, Title IX Coordinator, or Patricia Vaira, Section 504 Coordinator (students), or Keith Hettel, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Central Office Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646, 301-932-6610/870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

# Charles County Public Schools

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## Student Service- Learning Guidelines

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*James E. Richmond, Superintendent*

## WHAT IS STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING?

Student Service Learning is an unpaid activity within the curriculum, school, or community that provides a service to a non-profit organization or group to address a school or community need which must be approved by the school coordinator. Service Learning refers to a method of learning by performing service projects. It involves studying the community, identifying problems, developing solutions, implementing the solutions in the form of a service project, and reflecting on the impact of the service.

### Student Service Learning Best Practices

There are essential components for all service-learning projects.

1. Meet a recognized need in the community
2. Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning
3. Reflect throughout the 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

## UNIT CHART

Grade	Preparation	Action	Reflection	Total
6 <sup>th</sup>	1	NA	1	2
7 <sup>th</sup>	1	1	1	3
8 <sup>th</sup>	1	1	1	3
9 <sup>th</sup>	1	1	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

### Curriculum Connection:

**6<sup>th</sup> grade** – Preparation and Reflection Units are embedded in Personal Responsibility and Language Arts classes.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade** – PAR are embedded in Language Arts and Science classes.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade** – PAR are embedded in Language Arts and Health classes.

**9<sup>th</sup> grade** – All aspects of PAR are embedded in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Government class.

*11 Units*

### 1. Preparation Unit

Students identify a community need then use knowledge and resources available to meet this need. Preparation includes documenting what students have learned about an issue and how they plan to address the identified community need.

### 2. Action Unit

Action is the actual performing of the activity or project, which helps meet the particular need within the community. The activities may involve direct, indirect, or advocacy service projects. *Direct Service* includes activities which are “hands on”. *Indirect Service* includes activities which are performed “behind the scenes”. *Advocacy* involves activities which provide opportunities for students to lend their voices and talents to address the issue.

### 3. Reflection Unit

Reflection is an expression of the meaningfulness of the students’ service learning experience to themselves and, as they perceive it, to the community. Reflection may be done in written or verbal format.