Maryland's Seven Best Service Learning Practices

- Meets a recognized community need
- Achieves curricular objectives
- Provides opportunity for reflection
- Develops student responsibility
- Establishes community partnerships
- Enables students to plan ahead
- Equips students with knowledge, skills

For more information, contact:

**Maryland State
Department of Education**
Youth Development Branch
410.767.0357
MSDE Service Learning Link

Baltimore County Public Schools
*Office of Family &
Community Engagement*
443.809.4496
BCPS Office of Service Learning

**Baltimore County Public Schools
Department of Communications &
Community Outreach**

**Office of Family &
Community Engagement
6901 North Charles Street
Towson, Maryland 21204**

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SERVICE-LEARNING

Baltimore County Public Schools

When Learning Comes To Life!

WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-Learning combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based instruction. Students improve academic skills by applying what they learn in school to the real world. Then they reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning. It's truly learning by doing!

SERVICE-LEARNING ESSENTIALS

Preparation is the first step. Students work with teachers and community members to:
- *Identify* issues affecting a community
- *Select* a project, site, and type of action: Direct, Indirect, or Advocacy
- *Plan* service-learning reflection
- *Explore* what it means to be a citizen

Action is the next step. Students carry out their projects in school or in the community and give meaning to their academic lessons, such as helping to clean the environment.

Reflection is the final step. Students look back at the project and review what they have learned, either individually through journals or scrapbooks, for instance, or as a group through class evaluation of the project.

WHAT IS REQUIRED

To receive a high school diploma, all students – including those enrolled in special education programs – **must complete 75 hours of service-learning** (or a determined pro-rated amount for qualifying high schoolers) prior to graduation. Much of the work students will earn already is infused in existing classwork.

COMPLETING THE REQUIREMENT

Students may begin earning service-learning hours the summer before they enter grade 6. Students can earn hours through required curriculum projects, school-wide projects, or independent service projects. Each school has a service-learning coordinator to assist students.

EARNING CLASSROOM HOURS

Students may earn hours for completing service projects that are required parts of the following courses:

Middle School	High School
English 6 Health 6, 8 Tech Ed 6, 7 Business/Computer Sci 6,7 Art, 7 Family & Consumer Sci 7,8 Science 8 Social Studies, 8	Earth Systems, 9 English 9 American Govt 9 Tech Ed 9

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Students also may work on independent projects that meet community needs, including direct service or advocacy. A resource directory on the BCPS website can help students locate pre-approved service opportunities.

Approved independent projects may include:
- Tutoring younger students
- Serving at a soup kitchen
- Participating in an organized environmental restoration project
- Working with children at a licensed day care
- Working with a nonprofit on marketing or fundraising events

EARNING AWARDS

We're proud of the work you do! BCPS honors students in Grades 8 and 12 with annual service recognition awards based on the number of completed and documented independent service hours. County recognition is determined based on Independent hours submitted and entered by the end of the 3rd quarter.

Who is recognized?
- All eight grade and graduating seniors are eligible for recognition.
- The top 10 graduating seniors with no less than 150 independent service-learning hours.
- The top 5 eighth graders with no less than 75 independent service-learning hours.

Important Links

Office of Service Learning

Independent Project Forms

Service Opportunities