

Maricopa Unified School District

Board Policy

Instruction

Service Learning/Community Service Classes

BP 6142.4

The Governing Board recognizes that service learning can enhance academic outcomes, help students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become informed and responsible citizens, and aid in individual career development. Service learning experiences may also motivate students by providing them the opportunity to apply their studies to school and community needs and showing them that they can make a contribution to their community through involved citizenship.

- (cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
- (cf. 6000 - Concepts and Roles)
- (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
- (cf. 6030 - Integrated Academic and Vocational Instruction)
- (cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

Service Learning

The Board supports service learning instructional strategies as integral components of the district's curriculum. The Board encourages staff to collaborate with local public and nonprofit agencies in order to develop service learning activities that meet educational objectives, align with state and local academic standards, and address current community needs.

- (cf. 1600 - Relations Between other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
- (cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

The Superintendent or designee may develop a service learning plan which:

1. Integrates service learning into one or more of the core academic areas of science, English, social science, or mathematics at each grade span (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and includes instructional formats planned by teachers and students
2. Ensures that the service learning opportunities offered by the district help meet identified community needs and include a balance of on-campus and off-campus activities
3. Involves administrators, students, teachers, parents/guardians, and community members in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's plan, including a determination as to how projects will be evaluated as well as how supervision and transportation issues will be addressed

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with regular reports on the implementation of the plan and its effectiveness in meeting the district's goals for service learning.

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

Community Service Classes

The district may offer community service classes which acquaint students in grades 7-12 with the history and importance of volunteer service and with a wide range of identified school and community needs. Students shall be offered volunteer opportunities which support and strengthen their understanding of academic instruction and help them recognize the relevance of what they are learning in school and how it relates to their community.

The district's community service course may be required for high school graduation. On a case-by-case basis, the Superintendent or designee may allow students to fulfill the community service graduation requirement by performing alternative academic tasks.

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

The Superintendent or designee shall determine how credits shall be awarded and how students will be evaluated, supervised, and, if off-campus activities are included, transported to the off-campus location.

Notifications

Parents/guardians shall receive information about the service learning or community service opportunities if offered by the district and their benefits for both the community and the student. The district shall ask parents/guardians to acknowledge this information and provide consent before their child participates in any off-campus service activities.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

233.5 Teaching of principles

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

37220.6 Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning

51210 Areas of study, grades 1-6

51220 Areas of study, grades 7-12

51745 Independent study

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
12501-12682 National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993
COURT DECISIONS
Steirer et al v. Bethlehem School District, (1993) 987 F.2d 989

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Service Learning: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/sl>

Learn and Serve America: <http://www.learnandserve.org>

National Service Learning Clearinghouse: <http://www.servicelearning.org>

Youth Service California: <http://www.yscal.org>

(12/89 2/95) 3/07

MUSD Board Adopted: 2/11/16