

Dickson County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Service Learning	Descriptor Code: 4.204	Issued Date: 04/26/12
		Rescinds: 4.2040	Issued: 12/09

1 The Dickson County School Board desires that all students develop a strong sense of personal and social
2 responsibility. Development of this virtue can occur by infusing service-learning* (SL) instructional for-
3 mats as an integral component of the curriculum. Research demonstrates that SL can help students develop
4 transferable skills, increase career exploration, and improve confidence as well as strengthen academic
5 outcomes and civic education. These opportunities help students recognize the relevance of what they are
6 learning in school and can be designed to help develop cross-cultural relationships with the community.

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8 The Board affirms the importance of SL as a vital part of the instructional program and endorses the use of
9 state recognized SL models as a teaching methodology that can and should be used by teachers to support
10 student achievement through service to the community. Further, the Board recognizes that SL is an effective
11 vehicle to reinforce specific academic content areas in the classroom, and that many of our district learner
12 objectives and benchmarks can be reached through SL. To that end, staffs are encouraged to collaborate
13 with local public and non-profit agencies such as University of Tennessee Extension in order to develop
14 service learning activities that meet educational objectives and also support current community efforts to
15 meet health, environmental, or public safety needs. The Board urges all building administrators to partic-
16 ipate in training opportunities on SL methods and provide leadership for SL coordination. Further, the
17 Board encourages principals to include SL in each building's staff development plan.

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19 Parents/guardians shall receive information about the community service learning opportunities offered
20 by the District and their benefits for both the community and the student. The District shall ask parents/
21 guardians to acknowledge this information before students participate in off-campus service activities.

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23 A long-term plan to implement SL, in the district as an instructional strategy will be developed. The Ten-
24 nessee State Board of Education has encouraged local boards to implement SL requirements for a capstone
25 project. The SL capstone project will not be a requirement for graduation but will be encouraged. Those
26 students accumulating a minimum of 40 hours of service learning experience by April 30th of their senior
27 year will earn a Diploma of Distinction and will be recognized during their graduation ceremony. An offi-
28 cial notation will also be included on student permanent records as a way to allow students the opportunity
29 to be noticed by colleges and universities as having gone above and beyond in terms of citizenship to the
30 school and larger community.

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33 ** High quality SL is defined as an innovative strategy in which students apply curriculum skills to community
34 service and includes :Identifying and meeting a real community need, integration and enhancement of the
35 standards-based curriculum, coordination with the larger community, the fostering of civic responsibility,
36 and a structured time for reflection.*

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