

# SERVICE-LEARNING FAQs

## For Parents:

### 1. **What is the difference between Service Learning and Service to Community?**

During the year (including summer), our students are involved throughout the community in a variety of ways. Many of them are engaged with local businesses and organizations who offer both Service Learning and Service to the Community (or Volunteering) opportunities. All of these activities are incredibly important to us. We want to ensure that we are capturing our students' efforts outside of school, as well. For an activity or project to be considered Service Learning, it must meet the 7 Service-Learning Best Practices:

Meets a recognized need in the community.

Achieves grade level curricular objectives.

Equips students with knowledge and skills.

Reflects throughout the service-learning project.

Plans ahead for service projects.

Establishes community partnerships.

Develops student responsibility.

Community activities are equally as important to the community, but may not rise to the level of teaching/learning/reflection. These activities will be considered for volunteer hours.

### 2. **What classes have service-learning requirements?**

Service-Learning lessons are infused into the classroom curriculum starting in grade 3. Each year following, students participate in approved lessons designed by teachers that meet state Service-Learning guidelines.

Lessons are infused in grades 3- 8, High School English (9, 10), High School Health, Biology, and US History.

### 3. **How many hours of Service-Learning must my child earn?**

All Maryland public school students must earn at least 75 Service-Learning hours. 74 of these hours can be earned inside of the classroom beginning in grade 3. Students who are absent from school or who choose to disengage from these classroom lessons will be required to make up these hours independently, outside of school.

Updated individual student hours can be found on your child's report card. The building Service-Learning coordinators or the TCPS coordinator can provide the student or parent/guardian with an update on student hours if needed as well.

### 4. **Who should my child give their service sheets to?**

The only staff authorized to pre-approve independent SL projects and to collect *Student Service Learning/Volunteering Validation Forms* are below:

EHS- Linda Brown and Rachel Barnett

SMMHS- Amanda Priestley

EMS- Katie Manley and Tina Confair

*Talbot County Coordinator- Tracy Elzey*

SMES- Brittany Medford

WMES- Samantha Johnson

CDES- Tiffany Joseph

EES- Jeff Bell

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**5. How does my child earn a Presidential Award?**

Students in grades 6-9 who earn at least 50 Service-Learning hours during the school year are eligible for the Presidential Service Award (Bronze). Students in grades 10-12 who earn at least 100 Service-Learning hours during the school year are eligible for the Presidential Service Award. All hours must be submitted by May 1st. Only Service-Learning hours outside of school will be considered for this award, Service to the Community hours (or volunteering) are not included.

**6. Who can pre-approve projects for Service Learning and Service to the Community?**

All independent SL projects and volunteering opportunities must be pre-approved by your child's School Service-Learning Coordinator(s). During the summer, these pre-approvals can come from the Talbot Co Service-Learning Coordinator, Mrs. Tracy Elzey, at 410-822-0330 or [telzey@talbotschools.org](mailto:telzey@talbotschools.org).

**7. Where can I find the Service-Learning paperwork for my child?**

Go to the TCPS website. Click on Students and Families> Academics> Service Learning. All forms can be downloaded. Forms can also be obtained from the student's school.