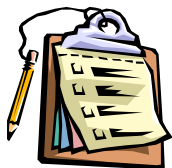


# Why Service Learning?

The Maryland State Board of Education added a 75 hour service learning requirement to earn a Maryland high school diploma. This has been a graduation requirement since 1997.

The Maryland State Board of Education allowed local counties to submit an alternative plan to fulfill the 75 hour mandate. Frederick County submitted an alternative plan and it was approved.

This brochure is designed to answer your questions about what your child needs to complete in Frederick County to fulfill the state service learning graduation requirement.



# Where can I find out about service learning opportunities?

From time to time, we find out here at school of service learning opportunities. Information about these service learning opportunities will be available in the Enrichment Room or heard over the morning announcements. Other places you can learn about or complete service learning projects would be through Scouting, 4-H, religious organizations or by contacting a non-profit service group such as Volunteer Frederick.

TMS

Have Questions? Need Service Learning Forms?  
Contact:  
Candace Desonier, Enrichment Teacher  
Thurmont Middle School

Phone: 240-236-5185  
candace.desonier@fcps.org

TMS



# Service Learning

What does my child need to complete in order to graduate from a Frederick County high school?

## Service Learning in Frederick County

Frederick County's plan has two aspects to it. First, Frederick County has infused service learning activities throughout the elementary, middle and high school classroom curriculums. If a student successfully completes the Frederick County curriculum, he/she has fulfilled the state requirement for high school graduation. Individual student service learning projects outside the classroom are not required.



## Meritorious Service Learning

The second aspect of the FCPS plan is Meritorious Service Learning. This is an extension of the requirement and goes *beyond* the state mandate. Students who volunteer their time outside the school day to non-profit service organizations may work towards a Meritorious Service Award. College admission boards and future employers often look for students who have extended their learning experiences outside the classroom. Students who have volunteered 75 or more hours outside the school day earn the award. The objective of this extension is to instill in FCPS students a spirit of community activism and involvement that will continue after high school.



## When can my child start earning his/her Meritorious Service Award?

Students who wish to work towards a Meritorious Service Award may begin in middle school. Service learning must occur after school, on weekends or on school vacation days. The student volunteer work must be performed with a non-profit service organization. Prior to completing each service project, the student must complete a form to be approved by Ms. Desonier, Enrichment Teacher and Service Learning Contact. After a service learning project has been completed, the remainder of the form must be filled out and returned to Ms. Desonier for credit. Middle school students are allowed to earn up to, but no more than, 25 hours of the 75 required for the award. All service projects must include planning, action, and reflection.

TMS

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