

COMMUNITY SERVICE POLICY
&
GRADUATION REQUIREMENT
(Beginning With The Graduating Class Of 2006 and After)

Beal City Public Schools believes that every student should be connected with his or her community through a strong learning and living environment. Learning takes place both inside and outside of the classroom, and volunteerism-through which students may learn firsthand about altruism, empathy, relationships, and one's role in a community is an important facet of becoming a well-educated adult who contributes to the betterment of society by helping others.

Therefore, Beal City Public Schools hereby establishes a Community Service Program for its high school students. Each student in the graduating classes of 2006 and 2007 will need to perform 20 hours of community service before graduation. All students in the graduating classes from 2008 and beyond will need to complete 40 hours of community service to graduate.

DEFINITIONS

Volunteer: A person who renders aid, performs a service, or assumes an obligation voluntarily.

Service: An act of assistance or benefit to another or others.

Voluntary Community Service: Activities that students perform to benefit at least one other unrelated person, and for which they do not receive monetary compensation.

GUIDELINES

Timeframe: The hours of community service may be performed anytime between the first day after the student graduates from the 8th grade and April 30th of the student's high school graduation year. Students may perform one or a variety of community service activities to attain the required hours of service. Volunteer activities may occur during a concentrated or an extended period of time. However, to prevent having to perform all required hours of community service within a short period of time (i.e., shortly before graduation), students may find it convenient to develop a personal schedule whereby the student completes a portion of the community service each year while in high school.

Record Keeping: The school will develop a form by which students may track and report to the school the date, nature, and number of community service hours performed.

Student: Among other questions related to eligibility, the student will be asked, “Did you complete the required hours of community service prior to graduation?” The students will answer Yes or No.

Third-Party: If the student disagrees with the school’s record of community service hours performed, the school will make available a form by which the student may submit third-party verification directly to the Counselor’s office. The third-party verification must come from the organization or person who supervised the student’s community service performance. The third-party organization or person may not be related to the student.

Qualifying Community Service Activities: Eligible activities include those separate from regular extracurricular activities (athletics, band, choir, etc.) in which the student renders aid or performs volunteer service that directly benefits at least one other unrelated person, and for which the student does not receive monetary compensation. Examples of eligible activities include (but are not limited to) reading to children in the elementary grades, tutoring, mentoring younger children, service learning, Meals On Wheels, Hospice, participating in activities that encourage middle school children to prepare for college, hospital volunteer, Habitat For Humanity, volunteer work through organizations such as local United Way agencies, Americorps, faith-based organizations, or other recognized local volunteer organizations. For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact BEAL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Serving others in a manner not associated with a community service or volunteer organization such as those cited above (e.g. helping the elderly neighbor do grocery shopping each week, etc.) is also permissible, but at no time may the student receive monetary compensation.

Exceptions: There may be exceptions for transfer students, or any other extenuating circumstances that may occur. (e.g. injuries or illnesses)

Disclaimer: Beal City Public Schools may, at its discretion and at any time, modify this policy. For more information or questions on this policy, contact Beal City Public Schools at (989) 644-3901.