

Service Learning

Service learning forms can be printed from this website and turned into the Mrs. Murphy in the Office of School Counseling.

Service hours can be tracked on BCPS One under the Student Information tab. You can also track hours on your child's quarterly report cards.

What is Service-Learning?

Maryland embraces the Learning in Deed definition of service-learning:

Service-Learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. Students improve their academic skills by applying what they learn in school to the real world; they then reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning.

Service-learning is often confused with volunteering or community service. While both activities are defined as forms of service within a community, they do not necessarily include a structured educational connection for participants, which is a foundation of all service-learning projects.

However, students are encouraged to speak with their school service-learning coordinator to discuss if a volunteer or other service activity can be developed into a service-learning project by incorporating a structured educational component.

Minimum Level of Student Engagement

All students receiving a Maryland high school diploma from Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) must complete 75 hours of documented service-learning between Grades 6 and 12 as a requirement of high school graduation. This school system requirement is in alignment with state law as mandated by the annotated code of Maryland (General Instructional Programs - 13A.03.02.06) which reads:

Students shall complete one of the following:

- A. 75 hours of student service that includes preparation, action, and reflection components and that, at the discretion of the local school system, may begin during the middle grades; or*
- B. A locally designed program in student service that has been approved by the State Superintendent of Schools.*

Students may earn hours towards the service-learning requirement through projects infused in our secondary school curricula and through pre-approved independent projects completed by students in the community.

Link for service learning implementation from BCPS

https://www.bcps.org/offices/service_learning/pdf/SL-Implementation-Plan.pdf