

CODE: IHAKA

SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE

The School Committee believes that service learning/community service experiences extend the curriculum and foster civic responsibility. Service learning/community service provides students with an opportunity to explore career possibilities, recognize the relevance of what they are learning in the classroom, and make a positive contribution to the community. Service learning/community service promotes confidence and self-esteem and may contribute to student achievement.

The School Committee believes that service learning/community service programs are most effective when based on the following principles:

- A. Service learning/community experiences should meet a real community need;
- B. Service learning/community service should be aligned with the guiding principles of the Learning Results;
- C. Student service learning/community service experiences should be preceded by training and support so that the students involved will be prepared to offer useful service and derive the greatest benefit from their involvement;
- D. Service learning/community service should be cooperative in nature, with emphasis based on group problem solving and team building;
- E. School staff and other adult supervisions should help ensure that service experiences are well organized and that logistical concerns do not interfere with meeting the goals of the experience;
- F. Whenever practicable, members of the community should be involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of service learning programs/community service experiences
- G. Service learning/community service experiences should include structured time for reflection, discussion and evaluation.

Students will be required to perform a minimum of 40 hours of service learning/community service as a requirement for graduation.

Parents/guardians should receive information about the service learning/community service opportunities offered by the schools and the benefits for both students and community. Parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with the Service Learning/Community Service Coordinator or Principal concerning needs of the community that could be met, in part, through student service learning/community service.

Cross Reference: IKF – Graduation Requirements

Adopted: July 5, 1994

Revised: November 6, 2012