

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS

POLICY

The Rainy River District School Board will support safe and meaningful community involvement experiences for students.

RATIONALE

All Ontario high school students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement by the time they graduate from Grade 12.

IMPLEMENTATION

As per *Procedure 4.65 Community Involvement Hours*, and Guidelines.

GUIDELINES

- 1.1 Community Involvement activities are intended to:
 - promote and encourage civic responsibility.
 - promote community values.
 - develop students' interests and skills.
 - guide and support students' career explorations.
 - introduce, reinforce, and nurture the importance of volunteering.

- 1.2 Students may begin to earn a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement as early as the summer preceding Grade 9. All students working to achieve this graduation requirement are responsible for:
 - submitting a Notification of Planned Community Involvement Activity form to the principal or designate for approval, prior to any involvement; and
 - submitting a Completion of Community Involvement Activity form to the principal within one year of the activity completion.

- 1.3 Community involvement activities must:
 - be completed outside of class time.
 - not be part of a credit course (e.g., cooperative education).
 - be unpaid activities.
 - not replace the role of a worker that would normally receive wages for the task.
 - involve any necessary health and safety training, equipment, and/or special preparation to ensure that the student is safe while fulfilling the community involvement activity.

- 1.4 Eligible Activities

The following list is intended to assist students and their parents/guardians in determining whether a planned activity is within an approved area. These community involvement activities may take place in the community or be school based.

- An event or activity designed to benefit the community in general
- Any program that promotes unpaid tutoring, mentoring, coaching, or assists others in need
- Participation in an event or activity that supports ethical work of a global nature or that promotes positive environmental awareness (e.g., Earth Day Cleanup)
- Participation in an event or activity that contributes to the health and well-being of others (e.g., assisting with fundraising or awareness run/walk events, We Scare Hunger)
- Participation in an event or activity that is affiliated with a non-profit, club, religious or political organization, or arts or cultural association that seeks to make a positive and ethical contribution in the community (e.g., political campaign, Community Living, Canadian Red Cross)

1.5 Ineligible Activities

The Ministry of Education has developed a list of activities that may not be chosen as community involvement activities. An ineligible activity is an activity that:

- contravenes any other applicable legislation, regulation or policy
- contravenes the policies and procedures of the organization that is supervising the student's community involvement activities
- is a requirement of a class or course in which the student is enrolled
- promotes discrimination, harassment, or puts the safety of the student or others at risk
- takes place in a logging or mining environment, if the student is under 18 years of age
- takes place in a factory if the student is under 15 years of age;
- takes place in a workplace other than a factory if the student is under 14 years of age and is not accompanied by an adult
- any other activity that contravenes the minimum age requirements to work in or visit a workplace stated in regulations made under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*
- would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace
- involves the operation of a vehicle, power tools, or scaffolding
- involves the administration of any type or form of medication or medical procedure to other persons
- involves handling of substances classed as *designated substances* under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*
- requires the knowledge of a trades person whose trade is regulated by the provincial government
- involves banking or handling of securities, or the handling of jewelry, works of art, antiques, or other valuables
- consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e., daily chores) or personal recreational activities
- involves activities for a court-ordered program (i.e., community service program for young offenders, probationary program)

1.6 The Rainy River District School Board has also determined that campaigning for the office of School Board Trustee is an ineligible activity.

1.7 Activities done for members of a student's family, or which are done on property owned by members of a student's family will not be considered as community involvement activities.

DEFINITIONS

Eligible Activities - Eligible Activities are activities that may be counted toward a student’s 40 community involvement hours, which must be accumulated as a graduation requirement.

Non-profit - Non-profit is a type of organization that does not earn profits for its owners. All of the money earned by or donated to a non-profit organization is used in pursuing the organization's objectives.

Volunteer - Someone who chooses to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility and without concern for monetary profit. It should be noted that students will not be paid for performing any community involvement activity.

CROSS-REFERENCE	LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE
<p>Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <p>Procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.25 Use of Corporate Resources for Elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy/Program Memorandum No. 124 - Ontario secondary school diploma requirement: community involvement activities ▪ Ontario Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2016