

## **Instruction**

### **Student Volunteers and Community Service**

The district is committed to preparing its high school students for active participation in community affairs through a student service learning program. Student service learning is defined as an unpaid activity within the curriculum, school or outside community that provides service to an individual or group to address a school or community need. The activity must be developmentally appropriate and meaningful to the student.

The program aimed at teaching skills and habits the Board of Education perceives as essential for good citizenship, strives to allow students to develop a wide range of personal, intellectual, academic and social skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, negotiation, communication, planning and evaluation. It will help students become effective employees, colleagues, citizens and leaders.

Through participation in student service learning, a student will have opportunities to:

- develop knowledge and respect for community and citizenship;
- learn that problems can be solved by working together;
- learn the responsibilities involved in citizenship;
- explore career opportunities;
- increase self-esteem and appreciation for others;
- become sensitive to others and appreciate cultural diversity;
- overcome barriers among children.

Students' performance of unpaid community service is viewed as beneficial to both society and the individual. It is believed that high school students are worthy citizens, capable of giving of themselves and willing to do so when encouraged. The Board of Education encourages efforts by the staff to encourage and assist students in such service.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221a [a] An Act Concerning High School Community Service  
Herndon v. Chapel Hill - Carrboro City Board of Education, 899  
F. Supp 1443 (North Carolina) 1995  
Immediato v. Rye Neck School District, 873 F. Supp 846 (New York)  
1995

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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut