

Cullman County Schools

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BILLY COLEMAN
SUPERINTENDENT

January 4, 2012

Dear Parent,

Beginning with the Class of 2012, Cullman County graduating seniors may have the Community Service Seal affixed to their diplomas if they have fulfilled the designated number of hours in service to their communities. The purpose of this initiative is to encourage students to help others in their communities as well as to instill in them the desire to continue this service for a lifetime.

The number of hours required for this recognition will be phased in according to class placement:

Class of 2012	25 hours
Class of 2013	50 hours
Class of 2014	75 hours
Class of 2015 (and all classes thereafter)	100 hours

Students must participate in service activities in a variety of settings with students volunteering in at least three different organizations (examples include schools, hospitals, religious organizations, registered non-profit organizations, etc.).

All community service activities must be documented on the Community Service Activity Log and must be signed by the adult supervising member of the organization. The title and contact information for the supervisor should also be listed for verification purposes. Supervisors may not be members of the student's immediate family.

Types of activities/organizations that meet the criteria of community service learning (examples, not an exhaustive list):

- Assisted living organizations
- Churches
- Nursing homes
- Food banks
- Military enlistment prior to graduation
- Non-profit organizations (American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, etc.)
- Volunteer Fire Department or Rapid Responders
- Other activities approved by the principal

Types of activities that do not meet the criteria of community service learning:

- Any activities that are **tied to a grade or required for a class** (ex., musical performances with school groups to places such as nursing homes will not count if the activity is tied to a grade in the music class)
- Any credit-bearing course
- Any paid activity or hours
- Any court-ordered service to the community
- Membership in a service organization **without** participation in service activities
- Attendance (only) in an activity

If there is a question about whether or not an activity or an organization is appropriate for community service learning, please verify this with the school principal *before* participating in any activities. The principal reserves the right to approve or deny community service credit for any activity.

Time frame for accumulation of hours:

A student may begin documenting hours on the first day of school in ninth grade and may continue to accumulate hours until the ending date designated by the local school in the spring of the student's senior year.

Principal

Parent Consent

_____ I give permission for my son or daughter to perform community service activities, and I understand that some activities may not count for credit in obtaining the Community Service Seal.

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Student: _____ Date: _____