

Overview of Student Service Learning

Starting with the class of 2011, students must earn 75 student service learning (SSL) hours as a condition of graduation. You will earn 15 of these hours as part of the social studies course, National, State, and Local (NSL) Government.

What Happens During an SSL Activity?

Three Required Phases

- 1. Preparation:** Identify an issue and learn about it. Gather facts and understand different points of view about the issue. Form an opinion about what should be done about the issue.

- 2. Action:** The response to an issue. Here are three ways to respond:
 - Direct Action.** Serve people face to face.
(Ex. Tutoring, reading to children, serving in a soup kitchen)

 - Indirect Action.** Serve people, but not face-to-face.
(Ex. Collecting food or clothes, a fundraiser for cancer research)

 - *Advocacy Action.** Promote a viewpoint on issues of interest using facts and suggest a change or continuation of laws, behaviors, or policies.
(Ex. Write letter of disagreement, sign a petition, promote new safety laws)

- 3. Reflection:** Think about the service experience.
 - What need was addressed?*
 - Who benefited?*
 - What did you learn about yourself?*

***Advocacy:** Active support of a stand that promotes or opposes a cause, idea, law, policy, standard, or regulation designed to influence the actions of people and/or government.

Political Participation: Behaving responsibly politically, such as voting, obeying laws, paying taxes, registering for the draft, staying informed, and/or advocating for an issue.

