



Community Involvement Activities

Date Approved: 2016

Projected Review Date: 2020

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PURPOSE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) is committed to a healthy and meaningful service experience for students as they complete their community involvement hours. HWDSB encourages students to develop an awareness and understanding of civic responsibility, while learning what role they can play and the contributions they can make in supporting and strengthening the Hamilton community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Promote and encourage civic responsibility
- Promote community values
- Develop student interests and skills
- Guide and support students' career explorations
- Introduce and nurture the importance of volunteering
- Reinforce the importance of volunteering

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

- Ensure students are completing their required 40 hours of community service to achieve their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
- Provide guidance and encourage students to volunteer across various sectors so that they develop an awareness and understanding of the contributions students can make in supporting and strengthening their community.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Director of Education
 Members of Executive Council
 Principals or designate

TERMINOLOGY:

Civic Responsibility: Civic responsibility is the responsibility of citizens in a society to exhibit certain attitudes and actions related to participation in society and democratic governance. Civic responsibility is associated with involvement community organizations and memberships with voluntary associations. Actions and attitudes relating to civic responsibility are displayed through political, civil, environmental and economic advocacy.



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Ineligible Activities: Ineligible Activities are activities that may not be included as volunteer hours towards a student's Community Involvement Hours, as outlined by both the Ministry of Education and Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Eligible Activities: Eligible Activities are activities that may be counted towards 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. Volunteer activities and hours cannot be accumulated during scheduled class time.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Develop a list to guide and encourage students to volunteer across various sectors. All secondary students must complete their 40 hours of community service as part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Community Involvement activities can begin on July 1st the summer before going into Grade 9.

Eligible Activities

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

- An event or activity designed to benefit the community in general.
- An event or activity to support a non-profit agency, institution or foundation that aligns with HWDSBs Strategic Directions and meets the ethical standards of the Ministry of Education.
- Any program that promotes tutoring, mentoring, visiting or 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.
- Participation in an event or activity that contributes to the health and well-being of others.
- Participation in an event or activity that is affiliated with a club, religious or political organization, arts or cultural association that seeks to make a positive and ethical contribution in the community.



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Examples of Eligible Volunteer Activities

If the activity that a student wishes to volunteer in does not appear on the list of eligible activities, the student must receive written permission from their secondary school principal before completing any Community Involvement Hours.

- Supporting Sports e.g. timekeeping, managing a team or coaching
- Fundraising
- Charity Walk-a-thons or Runs
- Community Events, Festivals or Fairs
- Community Projects e.g. tending a community garden
- Environmental Projects e.g. a community clean-up
- Youth Programs or Mentorship Programs
- Work with Seniors
- Camp Leader or Counsellor
- Office Work for a non-profit organization
- Committee Work e.g. the Literacy Committee at your local library
- Advisory Board
- Campaigning for Municipal, Provincial or Federal elections

List of Ineligible Activities

The ministry has developed a list of activities that may not be chosen as community involvement activities and that are therefore ineligible activities. These are referenced within the Community Involvement Activities Procedure.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has also determined that the following are ineligible activities.

- Campaigns for the office of school board trustee

PROGRESS INDICATORS:

Intended Outcome	Assessment
Ensure students are on track towards completing their required 40 hours of community service to achieve their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.	This will be measured through analysis of data (time) submitted by students.



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Intended Outcome	Assessment
Provide guidance and encourage students to volunteer across various sectors so that they develop an awareness and understanding of the contributions students can make in supporting and strengthening their community.	This will be measured through analysis of data (activity type) submitted by students to ensure this is happening.

REFERENCES:

Government Documents

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 124a - Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirement:
 Community Involvement Activities in English-Language Schools
 Ontario Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2011

HWDSB Policies

Community Engagement
 Student Engagement