

According to Florida State Statutes, any student who wishes to earn a standard diploma must meet the graduation requirement of 20(twenty) documented hours in approved Community Service that is earned between the beginning of 9th grade and graduation. The purpose of the Community Service Hour Graduation Requirement is to acquaint high school students with the need to become participating agents of change by providing service to both their school and community. Community Service teaches the skills of civil participation and develops an ethic of service and civic responsibility. Community Service Hours, as a graduation requirement, provide students with the opportunity to develop a long lasting sense of responsibility to society.

Definition.-- For purposes of this Policy, community service activities must be *supervised* age-appropriate activities. Community Service is defined as an act that benefits the community without compensation or academic credit. Depending on the nature of the activity and the availability of supervision, some of these activities may occur after school hours or on a weekend; and they shall not be done during the student's classes. Examples of community service would include providing services to a public school, library, hospital, animal shelter, homeless shelter, food bank, nursing home, places of worship, or any ***non-profit organization***. Items excluded from community service are: donations, service to benefit for-profit businesses, and court mandated community service.

Documentation-- The Guidance Department Secretary shall keep a record of Community Service hours using the Community Service Volunteer Hours Form (STA Form 1578). A copy of the form is retained in the guidance department and the original form is turned in to the principal's secretary who inputs the student's Community Service Hours in TERMS (A26, Recognition/Achievement). Once hours are entered in TERMS the original forms are filed in the student's CUM File by the data processor.