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**SERVICE LEARNING POLICY**

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**BOARD POLICY**

I. Policy Statement

The Guam Education Board and the Superintendent of the Department of Education shall create the Service Learning Framework in accordance with Public Law 30-53, which states that “each student shall complete seventy-five (75) hours of service learning as a requirement for high school graduation.” This mandate shall be implemented beginning with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class in the 2011-2012 School Year.

Additionally, the Public Law 30-53 specifies that “The mission of Service Learning is to allow each student to gain knowledge of the community’s needs, to expand their learning beyond the four walls of the classroom, to provide opportunities for lifelong intellectual and personal growth, and to feel the intrinsic rewards associated with giving back to society.”

For the purposes of the policy, Service Learning is defined as “a teaching and learning approach that integrates service to the community with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities” (National Commission on Service Learning, 2011). This standards-based curriculum must comply with all of the above:

1. It meets the needs of the community;
2. It is coordinated with an elementary school and/or secondary school;
3. It helps foster civic responsibility; and
4. It is used to integrate and enhance the academic curriculum of the students, and to provide structured time for the pupils to reflect on their service experience.

Therefore, a Service Learning Standard Operating Procedure will be established by the Superintendent of Education to address the following requirements as mandated by law:

1. How Service Learning hours will be met, inclusive of prorating the number of hours of Service Learning of students transferring into the Department of Education from off-island or private schools.
2. No service assigned, or work performed, as a component of any penalty or disciplinary action, is eligible for Service Learning.
3. Service Learning through religiously-affiliated organizations is permitted, provided that the service rendered shall not be religious in nature.
4. Students shall not receive monetary compensation for Service Learning; and
5. Only governmental entities and non-profit organizations can be partnered with Service Learning activities unless otherwise approved by the Board.

Each school shall encourage its students to attain civic responsibility. This program will work in conjunction with the students’ families, as well as, in partnership with the community at large.

**ADOPTED: Guam Education Board 11/30/11**