

THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Students must complete a minimum of 40*** hours of community involvement activities as part of the OSSD requirements. The purpose of this requirement is to encourage students to develop an awareness and understanding of civic responsibility and of the role they can play and the contributions they can make in supporting and strengthening their communities. Students will plan and select their community involvement activities in consultation with their parents and as part of the Individual Pathways Plan process as outlined in Ontario Schools, K-12, section 2.4.

All activities must be recorded and approved by the school prior to its commencement, using the appropriate Community Involvement Form available from the guidance department. Students are expected to follow ministry guidelines to determine the eligibility of their preferred activities. Activities may take place inside or outside the school, but those which occur inside the school may not be part of a credit program. Activities may take place during the school day, but must occur outside the student's scheduled course time, that is, during the lunch hour, or before or after classes. Examples of eligible activities include volunteer services, tutoring, fund-raising, coaching, or other work with community groups or charitable organizations, as long as the student is not paid for the work done. Documentation will be required from the community to substantiate the performed hours.

Although this diploma requirement applies to students in Grades 9 to 12, students in Grade 8 may start accumulating community involvement hours in the summer before they enter Grade 9. For mature students and students who have had a PLAR assessment, the principal will determine the number of hours of community involvement activities required.

***Due to COVID 19, current direction from the Ministry of Education has provided schools with the reduction of the community hour requirement for graduation to 20 hours. The parameters for eligible activities have also changed. Please consult with your teacher or guidance counsellor for more information.