

# Lowell School District 71

Code: **IGCG**  
Adopted: 11/24/08; 5/19/14  
Orig. Code(s): IGCG

## Service Learning

The Board supports the concept of service learning as a teaching methodology and encourages its use in the schools. As used in this policy, “service learning” means a teaching/learning strategy requiring students to develop and apply knowledge and skills through challenging projects that meet real community needs. Service learning includes activities that are coordinated with the community and institutions of higher education, as appropriate; are helpful in fostering civic responsibility and career-related standards; are integrated into and enhance the academic curriculum of the students enrolled; and include structured time for students to reflect on the service learning experience.

It is the expectation of the Board that service learning be embedded in the culture of the district through activities that are tied to academic content standards and/or local performance standards and reflected in the Consolidated District Improvement Plan (CDIP) and school improvement plans (SIP). Age-appropriate activities that promote the development of student skills in the areas of critical thinking, communication, teamwork, civic responsibility, mathematical reasoning, problem solving, public speaking, professional technical skills, the scientific method, research skills and analysis are to be incorporated in the curriculum in grades 8-12. Service learning will be included as a part of the district’s graduation requirements.

The superintendent may develop and implement service learning with the input of staff, students, parents, community and higher education, as appropriate.

Recommendations for curriculum revisions that require the addition or deletion of existing courses, represent a change in the courses and/or units of credit required for graduation and/or impact existing staffing patterns shall be submitted to the Board for approval. All other recommended changes must be submitted by the principal to the superintendent for approval.

The superintendent is directed to identify existing district policies, administrative regulations and other district practices that may be barriers to effective implementation of service learning. Identified policies will be referred to the Board for review and revision, as appropriate. The superintendent will also submit service learning funding needs to the Board as part of the budget planning process.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)  
[ORS 336.175](#)

[ORS 336.183](#)  
[ORS 341.315](#)

[OAR 581-022-1130](#)