

Community Service Requirements

All students are required to complete 50 hours of community service as part of their Government course requirement in order to graduate from Highland Park High School. In order to maximize student learning and community benefits, students must complete 7 hours each of their first two semesters in attendance and 6 hours each semester thereafter to complete the minimum 50 hour requirement. Students are permitted to work on this requirement during the summer. Students may not receive credit for service hours completed prior to their enrollment as a student at Highland Park High School. Entering freshmen may begin work on their service hours beginning June 1 after they successfully complete 8th Grade.

Volunteer work must be with an approved non-profit agency and must benefit those in need. Volunteer work to be credited to the community service requirement must be cleared through the community service coordinator prior to beginning the work. Appeals of the coordinator's decision may be made to the Community Service Council. Approved non-profit agencies will include, but are not limited to, hospitals, social service agencies, fundraising organizations for health causes, and fundraising organizations for low-income schools. Service opportunities will be posted on the Community Service Website and in the Community Service Room, G128.

Students must secure a supervisor's signature from the non-profit agency to receive credit for the work. Forms will be available on the Community Service Website and in the Community Service Room, G128. It is the student's responsibility to keep an accurate record of all service performed throughout his/her high school career.

Students cannot earn service hours by volunteering to be aides on campus at HPHS, nor can they earn service hours for fundraising for campus or district groups. School service work for HPISD will be limited to 10 of the first 50 cumulative hours. After the 50 hour graduation requirement has been fulfilled, there is no limit to the number of hours a student may earn through the school district. A faculty member or community sponsor of the service work activity must submit a list of students earning service hours through the event to the Community Service Coordinator.

Students cannot receive service credit for teaching any religion or leading and faith discussion groups. Students may, however, earn credit for assisting any secular activities the church engages in.

When calculating the creditable community service hours for an activity, students should not count meeting times or planning time, but they may count any time spent publicizing the activity, including stuffing envelopes, hanging flyers, and similar tasks.

Service hours must be reported within 30 days after the completion of the project or activity in order to receive credit. An updated record of community service hours will be posted at the beginning of each month on the Community Service Website. Seniors must complete their service hour requirement by the end of the progress report period in the final six weeks of their senior year in order to receive their diplomas.