

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 67

COMMUNITY SERVICE, VOLUNTEERISM, AND SERVICE LEARNING

The R.S.U. No. 67 Board of Directors encourages community service, volunteerism, and service-learning opportunities for all students, PK-12, and supports service learning as a teaching/learning strategy capable of helping fulfill the district's mission of empowering students to "become responsible, contributing citizens in an ever-changing global society." In doing so, the Board also embraces the mission of the Service Learning Leadership Team that seeks to promote "service learning as a methodology by which all students have opportunities... to connect and apply concepts and skills learned in the classroom to meet real needs in their communities." Additionally, the Board shows support for service learning by having approved the social-studies curriculum that includes "select[ing], plan[ning], and implement[ing] a civic action or service-learning project based on an asset or need and analyz[ing] the project's effectiveness and civic contribution" [*Maine Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction, Social Studies A3 (2007)*] for all grade spans.*

R.S.U. No. 67 supports service learning by (1) allocating resources needed to transport staff and students to sites where they can work with and/or learn from community partners or provide some kind of service, (2) encouraging the use of training-and-professional-development funds and release time to train staff as needed within the district and/or through participation in out-of-district workshops, (3) providing stipends for teacher leaders willing to coordinate and assist with service-learning projects within each grade span, and (4) providing financial support for materials needed to complete service-learning projects.

*The Maine Department of Education Regulation 132 (The Maine Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction) establishes parameters for essential teaching and learning in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Diploma. Service learning is embedded in the Social Studies portion of the regulation, but is intended to have applicability throughout the curriculum.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 1001(6)

Cross Reference: Policy AD—District Mission and Vision/Educational Philosophy

Policy ADF—Commitment to Learning Results

Policy GCI—Training and Professional Development Opportunities

Policy IGA—Curriculum Development and Adoption

Adopted: June 2, 2010