



2022-2023 Community Service Endorsement Report

January 2024



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The Community Service Endorsement (CSE) was designed to recognize high school students who perform a specified number of documented community service hours. The endorsement was authorized by Act 295 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature. Starting with the freshman class of 2013-2014 through 2019-2020, school systems could award a Community Service Endorsement to students completing a given amount of service each year (see chart below).

Grade	Community Service Hours
9	10
10	20
11	25
12	25
Total	80

Starting with the 2020-2021 school year, school systems are able to award a CSE to students completing a minimum of 80 hours of service anytime between ninth and twelfth grades. With this change in policy, it is expected that more students will have the opportunity to earn the CSE in high school.

Students may earn the endorsement by volunteering in a variety of areas, from offering service to local church and community organizations, teaching cheer and dance to elementary and middle school students to providing books in book nooks in town. Students document service on a form providing the number of hours served, the type of service (e.g. crisis support, arts, education, environment, veterans), and a description of the service performed. The form must be signed by a supervisor at the volunteer location prior to submitting to the designated person at the school collecting this information. The school is required to keep a record of all services performed by students seeking to earn the endorsement.

Schools are encouraged to share the CSE opportunity when students are in 8th grade. This is the start of the Individual Graduation Planning (IGP) process. The IGP provides a guide for the academic career of a student throughout high school. The IGP is completed for every student with the help of a parent or legal custodian and school counselor or an Individualized Education Program team (when applicable). The IGP also provides an opportunity for students to explore educational and career opportunities, optimizing their pursuit of appropriate educational and post-secondary opportunities. During this time, the CSE is shared with students to inform them of the opportunity.

The CSE is also promoted to administrators, teachers, and professional school counselors in the high school planning guide, newsletters, collaboratives, and funding opportunities. Each provides key insight into programs and resources to help students and schools achieve their goals.

Responses to a survey of school systems and independent charter schools “regarding student community service activities” indicated that students volunteered in a wide range of areas including:

- offering water, meals, and clean-up to those in need after a hurricane
- supporting local churches with donation collection and serving as Bible school teachers
- serving food, providing warm clothes and Christmas gifts at homeless shelters
- volunteering at community organizations
- organizing clean-up/beautification efforts in schools, cemeteries, parks, neighborhoods
- participating in and promoting blood drives
- adopting elderly residents of nursing homes or assisted-living facilities to spend time with and decorate their doors
- supporting 5K race fundraisers
- supporting their high schools by working school events, assisting teachers, serving as peer tutors, and assisting with campus clean-up
- caring for and/or tutoring elementary and middle school-aged children
- working with Habitat for Humanity

Survey respondents, the educators collecting the volunteer information from students, felt the volunteer service provided by the students was greatly appreciated by the community.

When asked about how to make the program better, respondents provided the following suggestions:

- provide structured guidelines for students and parents to understand the purpose
- identify a way to locate more volunteer opportunities for students
- develop/offer an easier way to track and report community service hours

Over the years, the CSE award attainment steadily grew, with the highest number issued during the 2017-2018 school year. Once the endorsement went into effect, the LDOE created a system by which to identify students earning the endorsement. This system was not available in the first year of implementation, and the information remained at the school level without a requirement to report. Documents were developed to support school systems in reporting students who earned the endorsement and outlined ways students could obtain community service hours during the COVID pandemic. By sharing the resources through newsletters and webinars, this year’s number of students earning the CSE increased. To continue to increase the number of students engaged in community service and receiving the CSE, several school systems were approved to receive ESSER III funds for the purchase of apps to use during 2023 to 2025. These apps provide a paperless tracking system for students to log community service hours, giving school personnel the ability to view and validate service hours, facilitating service hour reporting, and producing a service hour transcript for each student. Further emphasizing community service is expected to increase the number of seals earned.

Year	CSE seals
2015-2016	227
2016-2017	292
2017-2018	1031
2018-2019	579
2019-2020	754
2020-2021	435
2021-2022	591
2022-2023	928

School System	Community Service Seals Earned in 2022-2023
Allen Parish	8
Ascension Parish	3
Avoyelles Parish	4
Bossier Parish	20
Caddo Parish	55
Calcasieu Parish	5
Caldwell Parish	1
Catahoula Parish	1
East Baton Rouge Parish	13
East Feliciana Parish	3
Grant Parish	6
Iberia Parish	1
Jackson Parish	22
Jefferson Parish	171
Jefferson Davis Parish	8
Lafayette Parish	3
Lafourche Parish	28
Livingston Parish	47
Natchitoches Parish	1
Ouachita Parish	8

Rapides Parish	22
St. Bernard Parish	20
St. Martin Parish	12
St. Tammany Parish	99
Vermilion Parish	21
Vernon Parish	28
West Baton Rouge Parish	1
West Carroll Parish	1
Winn Parish	16
City of Monroe School District	10
Lycee Francais de la Nouvelle-Orleans	4
Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) N.O.	1
Dr. Martin Luther King Charter School for Sci Tech	51
Benjamin Franklin High School	64
Edna Karr High School	8
The Willow School	159
Eleanor McMain Secondary School	2
New Harmony High Institute	1

It is recommended that the endorsement continue to be promoted to all students in high school and that school systems provide a list of volunteer opportunities available to students.