



State Board of Education Resolution
On Approval of Amendments to the District of Columbia’s Community Service High
School Graduation Requirement
SR22-14

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education’s (OSSE) regulations for graduation are codified in Chapter 22, Subtitle A, of Title 5, of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR);

WHEREAS, section 403(a)(3) of the “Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007” requires the D.C. State Board of Education to approve high school graduation requirements for the District;

WHEREAS, 5-A DCMR § 2203, which sets academic requirements for high school graduation, requires students to complete 100 hours of voluntary community service to graduate;

WHEREAS, the community service requirement for graduation was suspended by the Council of the District of Columbia for graduating students in 2020, 2021, and 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, at working sessions before the D.C. State Board of Education on September 7, 2022, October 12, 2022, and November 2, OSSE presented draft concepts to:

1. Stagger the reimposition of the community service hours requirement over four years to accommodate for the challenges created by the pandemic;
2. Provide flexibilities for the community service requirement for students who transfer to D.C. local education agencies (LEAs) from outside of D.C. LEAs; and
3. Clarify and broaden the definition of community service for purposes of accruing hours toward the graduation requirement;

WHEREAS, OSSE, in addition to engagements with the D.C. State Board of Education, conducted outreach with school and LEA leaders to solicit input on the proposed changes;

WHEREAS, OSSE, as a result of these engagements, will propose the following changes to 5-A DCMR § 2203:

1. The community service graduation requirement will be staggered by graduating year, as follows:
 - a. Students graduating in 2023 shall be required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of 12 hours of community service to graduate;
 - b. Students graduating in 2024 shall be required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of 50 hours of community service to graduate;
 - c. Students graduating in 2025 shall be required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of 75 hours of community service to graduate; and






- d. Students graduating in 2026 or thereafter shall be required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of 100 hours of community service to graduate;
- 2. High school students who transfer to a D.C. LEA from outside of a D.C. LEA shall have to complete the following number of community service hours:
 - a. Students who transfer during their senior year shall have the community service graduation requirement waived;
 - b. Students who transfer during their junior year or as rising seniors shall have to satisfactorily complete 25 hours of community service;
 - c. Students who transfer during their sophomore year or as rising juniors shall have to satisfactorily complete 50 hours of community service; and
 - d. Students who transfer during their freshman year shall have to satisfactorily complete 75 hours of community service;
- 3. The definition of community service shall be changed from “The specific volunteer community service projects shall be established by the LEA” to “LEAs shall approve unpaid community service conducted in person or virtually that is intended to provide a societal benefit through activities organized by the school, organized by students, or organized by individuals outside the school, including through a government, non-profit, or for-profit entity”; and
- 4. Require community service hours to transfer between District LEAs when a student transfers schools;

WHEREAS, OSSE will solicit additional feedback on the proposed amendments to the District of Columbia’s community service high school graduation requirement during the notice and comment period, which shall commence with approval of this resolution;

WHEREAS, OSSE will thoroughly consider all of the comments received throughout the public comment period; and

WHEREAS, the D.C. State Board of Education has considered the proposed revisions to the community service graduation requirements in 5-A DCMR § 2203 and finds that the revisions establish a fairer and more equitable hours requirement for students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, provide reasonable flexibilities for transfer students, and improves the definition of what constitutes community service for purposes of graduation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the D.C. State Board of Education approves the District’s Emergency and Proposed Regulation to change the community service graduation requirement in Section, 2203, Chapter 22, Subtitle A, of Title 5, of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) as proposed by the State Superintendent.

Date Adopted: 11/16/2022 Signed: 
Jessica Sutter, President

