

## What is a Community Service Diploma Endorsement?

A *Community Service Diploma Endorsement* is one of three types of diploma endorsements that Louisiana high school students may earn upon graduation. Beginning with freshmen entering school year 2013-14 and beyond, local education agencies (LEAs) may award a *Community Service Diploma Endorsement* to students completing a minimum number of documented community service hours by graduation. Authorized by Act 295 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature, this voluntary diploma endorsement was established to:

- Engage students in their communities;
- Provide a process to apply what they have learned in a social setting; and
- Provide opportunities for students to explore their interests, passions, and potential career aspirations in an engaged, hands-on environment.

## What are the requirements?

- Students entering as freshmen school year 2013-2014 or beyond;
- Local Education Agencies document community service hours using the [Community Service Diploma Endorsement Tracking Form](#).
- Students perform approved community service hours according to the following schedule:

Grade	Minimum Hours
9	10
10	20
11	25
12	25
Total	80

A student who (1) transfers into a participating LEA after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or (2) graduates early may receive a community service endorsement if that student:

- Meets the minimum requirements for each year, and
- Completes a total of 80 community service hours by graduation.

## How do I get started?

1. Determine if your school/district plans to allow entering freshmen for school year 2013-14 to earn a Community Service Diploma Endorsement.
2. Review types of [community service categories](#).
3. Join school and/or community service clubs to plan and conduct service projects (Note: If your school does not have a service club, contact local non-profits about planned service projects. See description of [community service categories](#) for suggestions.)
4. Select and plan carefully for community service events that do not conflict with school and district calendars (e.g., [state tests](#), required school activities, holidays).
5. Use the [Community Service Diploma Endorsement Student Documentation Form](#) to submit your participation to school/district Community Service contact for inclusion on [Community Service Diploma Endorsement Tracking Form](#).
6. For additional service opportunities, go to <http://volunteerlouisiana.gov/>.