

## **Sparta Area School District**

### Article 431 – Service Learning

The Sparta Area School District Board of Education desires that all students develop a strong sense of personal and social responsibility. The Board recognizes the value of service learning in contributing to this goal and supports the infusion of serving learning as an integral part of the curriculum. Research supports service learning as a teaching strategy that contributes to civic responsibility, personal growth, youth leadership development and character development.

The Board also recognizes that service learning integrates academic knowledge, skills and concepts while accomplishing an “authentic purpose” within schools and the community, thereby supporting academic achievement. Service learning has also been shown to have a positive effect on student attendance.

Service learning is set apart from community service or volunteerism because service learning has clear and direct ties to academic curriculum in addition to its community outcome. Important components of service learning include student ownership, genuine community need, curricular connection, reflection and evaluation.

To that end, the Board supports and encourages staff development regarding service learning strategies and practices, and the infusion of service learning at all levels and in all curricular areas. The Board also encourages staff to collaborate with local public and non-profit agencies and groups in order to develop service learning activities that meet educational objectives and also support current community efforts to meet health, social, environmental or public safety needs.

Legal Reference:                      Wisconsin Statutes 118.01(2) and 118.33(1)(c)

Cross Reference:                      Article 601 – Public Relations  
    Article 415 – Curriculum and Instruction

Approved:                                January 24, 2006

Revised: