# **VOLUNTEERISM 30 CREDIT**

### Background

The Ministry of Education and the Division recognize the value of volunteering and that student achievement can occur in areas outside of the regular Secondary Level program. Volunteerism refers to the act of volunteering through community service activities. Volunteerism enhances the well-being of self and others while providing meaningful service to the individual, organization, and community.

### Glossary

*Community Service Activities* - refers to organized activities led by businesses, not-forprofit organizations, public sector institutions (including schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities and childcare facilities and informal settings that contribute to the health of the community and broader society.

*Volunteer* - refers to someone who gives their time in support of helping others with no expectation of gain or material benefit in return.

*Volunteerism* - refers to the act of volunteering through community service activities. Volunteerism enhances the well-being of self and others while providing meaningful service to the individual, organization, and community. Volunteerism can assist students in building pathways to the workforce; it is another form of applied learning and work exposure that supports career decision making while providing a context for learning.

### Requirements

- 1. Schools shall establish procedures to communicate to parents/guardians and students the availability and the administrative procedure requirements for credit attainment for volunteerism.
- 2. To earn a volunteerism credit, the student must be enrolled in a regular twenty-four (24) credit program in the Division.
- 3. Volunteerism hours must be completed in Grades 10 to 12.
- 4. Volunteer hours must be undertaken and completed outside of the regular school program hours.
- 5. The volunteerism credit requires a minimum of one hundred (100) hours of volunteer time for one (1) or more community service activities.
- Students are not eligible to earn a Volunteerism 30 credit for any activities listed in the Appendix B: Ineligible Volunteerism Activities listed in the Ministry of Education's Volunteerism Policy 2023.
- 7. This policy is not applicable to the Adult 12 program requirements.

## Procedures

To enroll in the volunteerism credit, the student is required to submit a personalized learning plan to the school administration, using the Volunteerism Plan Template available as an appendix in the Volunteerism 30 Policy from the Ministry.

- 1. The Volunteerism Plan Template must be completed and approved by the principal or designate prior to the student starting the volunteer work.
- 2. All volunteerism credits are to be submitted to the Ministry following the procedures outlined in the Volunteerism Policy document, available from the Ministry of Education.
- 3. Volunteerism 30 credits will be awarded following the process outlined in the Volunteerism 30 Policy document.
- 4. Schools shall retain a copy of the volunteerism plan and log and supporting documentation on file for a minimum of five (5) years.

Reference: Volunteerism Policy 2023, Ministry of Education

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