

Service-Learning Diploma

The Service-Learning Diploma is a locally developed official recognition program designed to recognize high school students who are committed to serving their community. Students who complete 250 hours of service-learning experience over the course of their high school years will receive this certification upon graduation. The program is designed to recognize students who dedicate a significant amount of their time to service-learning in an effort to address challenges and solve problems in their community. All students who complete this program will be awarded a GCS Service-Learning Diploma. Additionally, at graduation, these students will be distinguished by wearing a Service-Learning cord. *Modifications to the requirements will be made in the first TWO years the diploma is awarded.*

Graduates of the following years are required to complete the following hours of service to receive the diploma

2013	225 hours
2014 and after	250 hours

The first diplomas to honor students completing 250 hours of service-learning experiences will be granted at the 2014 commencement exercises.

It is recommended that students distribute these hours over the course of the four years of their high school. This pacing will make their service more consequential and manageable with their other academic responsibilities.

Suggested schedule for acquiring 250 hours of Service-Learning Diploma

Freshman Year	25 hours
Sophomore Year	50 hours
Junior Year	75 hours
Senior Year	100 hours
TOTAL	250 HOURS

After 2014, there will be no further adjustments to the number of hours required for the obtainment of the Service-Learning Diploma. Students entering GCS at any time after their ninth-grade year will still be required to complete 250 service hours to be eligible for the Service-Learning Diploma. Documented and verifiable Service-Learning hours that meet the program criteria completed in school districts outside of Guilford County will count towards the Service-Learning Exemplary Award.