

By September 1, all school districts are required to adopt a policy that provides an incentive, such as recognition or credit, to students who participate in community service. This includes non-high school districts. WSSDA has developed a model policy and procedure that districts may want to use to comply with the new law.

[Policy 2414](#) describes the rationale for supporting community service. [Procedure 2414P](#) offers suggestions for programs that the district superintendent may implement wholly or in part. None of the suggestions are required, however, and a district may design its own program to better serve its unique student population. Procedure ideas range from varsity letters for completing a certain level of community service hours to certificates to graduation credit. Other ideas include specially colored graduation cords, a community service course, or recognition assembly.

For a review of the legislation, please see ESHB 1412 ([Chapter 176, Laws of 2013](#)).

District superintendents may have been forwarded a request from their ESD last month that was originally from Rep. Steve Bergquist, D-Renton. Bergquist was the bill sponsor; his request was for a copy of a district's policy that recognizes community service. This is a bit unusual and is not required by the enacted legislation. It was Rep. Bergquist's belief, and still is, that community service should be a graduation requirement. Other legislators supported a district's right to set graduation requirements at the local level and that was what was signed by Gov. Jay Inslee in May.

Policy 2414 and Procedure 2414P were developed by WSSDA's Policy & Legal Services. Questions about the policy or procedure should be directed to Heidi Maynard at h.maynard@wssda.org.