

McKeel Academy of Technology

Bright Futures Volunteer Service & Paid Work Specific Guidelines

General Information

Students may begin earning eligible volunteer service or paid work hours after completing 8th grade. Volunteer service and paid work hours may qualify toward Bright Futures requirements as outlined in Florida Statute 1009.534. Eligible experiences may include, but are not limited to:

- Nonprofit community service organizations
- Business or governmental internships
- Paid employment
- Activities on behalf of a candidate for public office

Students are responsible for maintaining documentation and verification of all submitted hours. Paid work hours must include employer verification (pay stub, employer letter, or other official documentation).

Eligible Volunteer Service Examples

Volunteer service may be approved when it benefits the community and is supervised by an organization or approved sponsor.

Examples include:

- Food banks and food drives
- Neighborhood clean-ups
- Hurricane relief efforts
- Building or repairing homes for those in need
- Tutoring or mentoring programs
- After-school child care programs
- Toy drives
- Homeless outreach programs
- Nursing home or senior citizen programs
- Animal shelter volunteer work
- Community festivals and civic events
- School-sponsored service projects that benefit the community

Religious Organizations

Volunteer service performed through a religious organization may qualify if the activity primarily serves the community and is not:

- A religious service or ceremony
- Proselytizing or evangelizing
- Fundraising for a religious institution

Examples of eligible activities include food pantries, tutoring programs, community outreach, disaster relief, and service projects benefiting the broader community.

School Organizations & Athletics

Participation in clubs, honor societies, student government, athletics, or other school organizations does not automatically qualify for service hours.

However, service activities sponsored by these groups may qualify when students are actively performing community service.

Examples:

- National Honor Society service projects
- Sports concession stands
- Field maintenance or campus beautification projects
- Community outreach events