

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Extra Duty Activity (EDA)

Name of EDA:	Mock Trial
School Level:	High

Description of Activity: Under the direction of the principal, the mock trial sponsor is responsible for coordinating the school’s mock trial program. The sponsor helps students to prepare and present trials from the perspectives of the prosecution and the defense. Sponsors teach team members about courtroom decorum, legal procedures, trial strategy and legal argumentation, and how to play different trial roles (e.g., trial attorneys and witnesses) in preparation for mock trial competitions. The sponsor applies the Citizenship/Law-Related Education for the Schools of Maryland and BCPS mock trial competition rules and procedures to BCPS, and facilitates interactions between judges and attorneys who score and preside over trials and the students. The sponsor serves as the team coordinator and is responsible for organizing meetings and arranging transportation to and from mock trial competitions.

The mock trial sponsor is responsible for recruiting and registering team members. Membership is based on competitive open auditions. Students compete with teams from parochial, private, and public schools from the Third Judicial Circuit. The competitions can progress to the state level. Mock trial sponsors and students work closely with members of the local legal community, including judges, attorneys, and court staff.

The mock trial sponsor should possess knowledge of the law and courtroom procedures; excellent oral, debating, and written communication skills; organizational, leadership, and human relations skills; and the ability to teach students how to play different courtroom roles. Competitions may require overnight travel.

Link to the Blueprint for Progress: Mock trial reflects Performance Goals 1 and 6 in the *Blueprint for Progress*. It allows students to apply their knowledge of the law and legal procedures in a real-world setting. It develops students’ written and oral communication and analytical thinking skills and teaches them how to work collaboratively. Mock trial also encourages community members, such as attorneys and judges, to participate in the educational process.

Mock trial enriches students’ understanding of the grade 9 American government curriculum, contributing to students’ success on the American government HSA and the AP government exam.

<i>Examples of Specific Duties of this EDA Sponsor</i>	<i>Estimated Hours</i>
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Preparation and Planning	20 – 30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertises and recruits by creating posters, writing announcements, holding interest meetings, and speaking at club fairs 	

- Auditions students by having them perform a role from a previous case (students are rated on their knowledge of the affidavit, their critical thinking skills, and their ability to improvise)
- Prepares and submits registration paperwork for BCPS and CLREP (Citizenship Law-Related Education Program), including multiple copies of team rosters and contact information
- Organizes field trips (obtains administrative approval, distributes and collects permission slips, arranges transportation, and collects emergency contact information from students)
- Arranges and conducts scrimmages during the pre-season
- Arranges publicity through schoolwide announcements, posters, bulletin boards, and local press

Meetings 50 – 60

- Holds introductory meetings to review the purpose of mock trial, establish regular meeting times, and practice courtroom procedures
- Conducts after-school weekday practices in order to analyze the case, develop case theory, write opening and closing statements, and develop and practice witness questions and research legal precedent
- Attends circuitwide coaches meeting

Other EDA Duties 15 – 25

- Collaborates with attorney advisor to critique student performance and review case theory and legal strategies
- Attends and supervises competitions against teams from other schools at the county courthouse during seasonal competitions
- Attends awards ceremonies at school and, possibly, at the county level
- Prepares the team for interscholastic competitions by instructing members in court procedures, case information, case law, and oral and written presentation skills
- Provides feedback on student performance

Estimated Annual Hours that a Teacher Might Spend to Sponsor this EDA: 85+
Minimum Number of Students Required: 6 – A full team is composed of 12 members and, if needed, 3 alternates.

Annual Compensation

Mock Trial is a Level I activity.