

Service Learning Is....

“Service Learning allows students to learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet actual community needs and that are coordinated in collaboration with the school and community. Service learning is integrated into the students’ academic curriculum or provides structured time for a student to think, talk, or write about what the student did and saw during the actual service activity. It provides students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real-life situations in their own communities. It also enhances what is taught in school by extending student learning beyond the classroom and into the community and helps to foster the development of sense of caring for others” (National and Community Service Act of 1990).

FOUR COMPONENTS OF SERVICE LEARNING

PREPARATION

ACTION

REFLECTION

CELEBRATION

What is Service Learning?

Service learning is a method by which young people learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized experiences that:

School-Based

Meets actual community needs.

Coordinate in collaboration with the school and community.

Integrate into each young person's academic curriculum.

Provide structured time for a young person to think, talk, and write about what he/she did and saw during the actual activity.

Provide young people with opportunities to use newly acquired academic skills and knowledge in real life situations in their own communities.

Provide opportunities for practical application of what is taught in the school.

Help to foster the development of a sense of caring for others.

Community-Based

Meets actual community needs.

Coordinate in collaboration with the school and community.

Integrate into each young person's academic curriculum.

Provide structured time for a young person to think, talk, and write about what he/she did and saw during the actual activity.

Provide young people with opportunities to use newly acquired academic skills and knowledge in real life situations in real life situations in their own communities.

Expand the young person's learning environment to include the broader community.

Help to foster the development of a sense of caring for others.

Alliance for Service Learning in Education Reform March 1996
Close up foundation; 44 Canal Center Alexandria, VA 22314-1592

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The Standards: School-Based and Community-Based

- Effective service-learning efforts strengthen service and academic learning.
- Model service-learning/community-service provides concrete opportunities for youth to learn new skills, to think critically, and to test new roles in an environment that encourages risk-taking and rewards competence.
- Preparation and reflection are essential elements in service-learning/community-service.
- Youth's efforts are recognized by those served, including their peers, the school, and the community.
- You are involved in the planning.
- The service that students perform makes a meaningful contribution to the community.
- Effective service-learning integrates systematic formative and summative evaluation.
- Service learning connects the school or sponsoring organization and its community in new and positive ways.
- Service learning is understood and supported as an integral element in the life of a school or sponsoring organization and its community.
- Skilled adult guidance and supervision are essential to the success of service learning.
- Preservice training, orientation, and staff development that include the philosophy and methodology of service learning best ensure that program quality and continuity are maintained.

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