



Learn and Serve America



**Office of Lieutenant Governor
Louisiana Serve Commission
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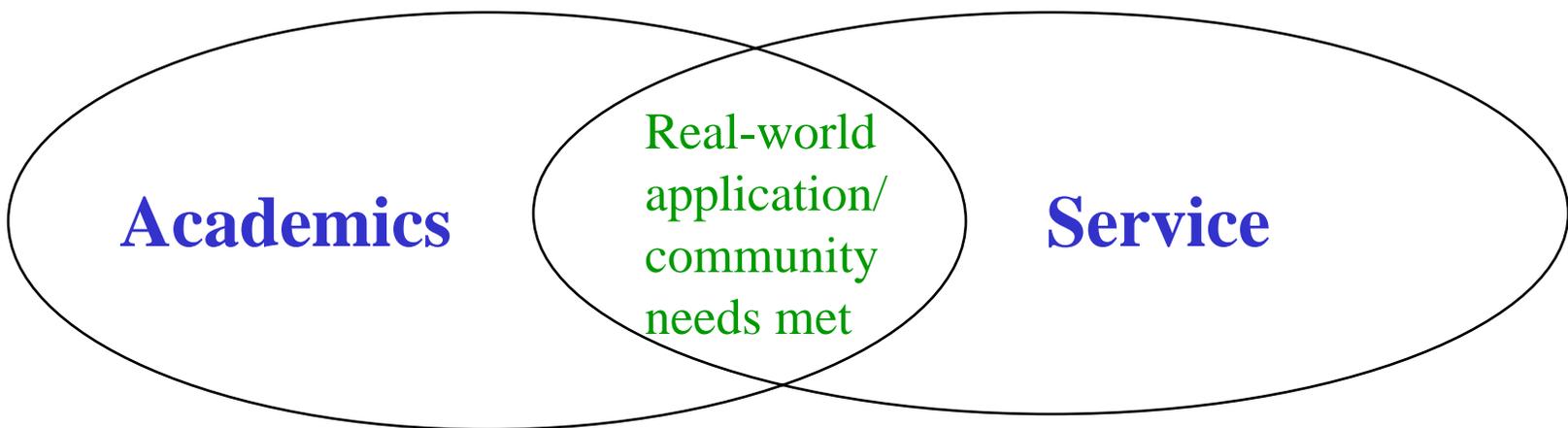


Service-Learning

- What is service-learning?
- What are the benefits?
- Why should I try service-learning?

Service-Learning...

is a teaching methodology that uses active learning in service to the community to master grade level expectations (GLEs).



Service-Learning vs. Community Service

- **Service-learning** is tied to the academic curriculum
- Applies academic studies with hands-on projects to solve “real world” issues
- Involves students in all phases of program
- **Community service** is a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institution

**SEE THE
DIFFERENCE?**

Community Service

Students bring a
canned food item for
the local food bank's
holiday drive

**DOES THIS SCENE
LOOK FAMILIAR?**





Service-Learning

- Discuss nutrition in class
- Read The Can-Do Thanksgiving
- Students contact local food bank
- Conduct food drive
- Record foods collected
- Connect with math by graphing types of food collected



Essential Elements of Service-Learning

- Preparation/Planning
- *Action!*
- Reflection
- Demonstration/Celebration

YOUTH VOICE REQUIRED!



- Creates ownership of program
- Keeps students interested in school
- Empowers students
- Promotes leadership, teamwork
- Validates student participation in project

Preparation/Planning

Teachers and students work together to:

- identify community needs through research
- find and establish partnerships
- plan service projects that will fulfill the identified community need
- obtain special training or orientation needed prior to service project



Action!

Students conduct service projects that are:

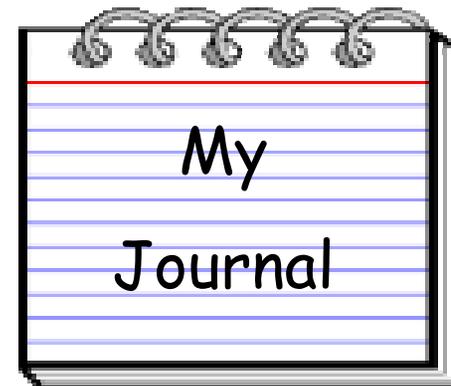
- meaningful, address community needs
- tied to the curriculum area to be strengthened
- age appropriate for student participants
- provide opportunities for youth voice and student ownership

Reflection

Students are provided with structured time to reflect upon their experience in the project(s).

Various ways:

- Journaling
- Discussions
- Scrapbooking
- Performances
- Create music



Demonstration/Celebration

- End-of-the-year event
- All students are recognized equally with Certificates of Participation.
- Opportunity to present Presidential Volunteer Service Awards to qualified students
- Opportunity to showcase program
 - School officials
 - Beneficiaries
 - Partners
 - Media



Top 10 Benefits of Service-Learning

10. Increases critical thinking skills
9. Strengthens academic learning
8. Teaches problem-solving
7. Increases public speaking abilities
6. Increases research skills and analysis

Top 10 Benefits

5. Strengthens teamwork /leadership abilities
4. Connects learning with “real world”
3. Increases awareness societal issues
2. Broadens views of diversity issues
and
1. Answers student’s question:

“WHY DO I HAVE TO LEARN THIS?”



2009-10 Learn and Serve Grant Opportunity

Grant guidelines and application can be obtained at:
www.crt.state.la.us/laserve/las

Funding Source

- Corporation for National and Community Service awards school-based formula funds to Louisiana Department of Education
- Interagency agreement between Department of Education and Office of Lieutenant Governor, Louisiana Serve Commission
- Program administered through Louisiana Serve Commission
- Louisiana Serve Commission conducts competitive grant application process

2009-10 Funding Levels

- **Individual**

- **New:** Years 1-3 in program, eligibility based upon years in program, criterion met, grant awards up to \$5,000 per year
- **Contintuing:** Years 4-6 in program, eligibility based upon years in program, criterion met, grant awards up to \$7,000 per year
- **Leadership:** Years 7+ in program, eligibility based upon years in program, criterion met, grant awards up to \$12,000 per year
- **Public School/Private School Partnership:** Public school applies for funding, involves public school student participants and private school students in conducting projects, grant awards up to \$5,000

2009-10 Funding Levels

- **Institutionalized Programs**
 - Grant application submitted by school district
 - Application identifies multiple, individual programs to be implemented in several schools within the district
 - School board must identify an educator or district level staff member to serve as the program's service-learning coordinator.
 - Eligible for up to \$50,000 in funding

2009-10 Funding Levels

- **Public or Private Non-Profit Entity / Public School Partnership**
 - Applicant is the public or non-profit organization that meets the following criteria:
 - Has demonstrated expertise in the provision of services to meet educational, public safety, human, or environmental needs;
 - Has been in existence for at least one year before the submission date of the grant application;
 - Can make service projects available for student participants involved in service-learning program
 - Applicant may include partnerships with private for-profit businesses or private elementary or secondary schools

2009-10 Funding Levels

NOTE:

The Louisiana Serve Commission reserves the right to negotiate the funding level with any grant applicant.



Match Requirement

- **Grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match**
 - Cash
 - In-Kind Contributions
 - Services
 - Professional / personal expertise
 - Materials
 - Donations, discounts provided
 - Other
- “Great Ways to Meet Your Match” info sheet

2009-10 Grant Opportunity

- **February 2009** - On-line grant application released
- **April 15, 2009** – Electronic submission deadline of grant application to Louisiana Serve Commission
- **April 23, 2009** – Certification and Assurances page and/or Memorandum of Understanding, if required, must be received by Louisiana Serve Commission
- **May, 2009** - Review and/or negotiation process
- **June 2009** – Awards by LSC, notifications sent



2009-10 Grant Timeline

- August 15, 2009 – Programs begin
- June 2010 – Programs end
(last day of school)
- August 2010 – All reporting must be completed



2009-10 Grant Opportunity

- **Required information:**
 - Academic need
 - Community need to be fulfilled
 - Service activities information and timeline
 - Curricular connections
 - List of partnerships, roles, responsibilities
 - Evaluation plan
 - Budget summary / Sustainability Plan

2009-10 Grant Opportunity

- **Grant funds may be used to pay for:**
 - Bus transportation to/from project site
 - Materials/supplies
 - Equipment purchases of up to \$300 per item
 - Up to \$600 for t-shirts for student participants
 - Pay for teacher's time outside of regular hours when working on service-learning program (caps apply)
 - Copying/printing

2009-10 Grant Opportunity

- **Grant funds cannot be used to:**
 - Purchase food or refreshments
 - Engage in religious activities
 - Engage in political activities
 - Hiring a new employee or consultant for program
 - Duplicate or supplant work of employee/volunteer already in place
 - Provide for a “reward” or field trip of any kind
 - Pay students to participate
 - Pay transportation for individual students

Service-Learning looks like.....



Hurst Middle School's LaBranche Wetland Watchers students conduct and document water quality testings at Lake Pontchartrain.



Higher grade level students reading with younger students allows both to become better readers.

2006-07 Statistics

(42 funded programs)

- **General Academic Performance of Participants**
 - 58.8% (23 programs) reported substantial positive impact
 - 42.9% (18 programs) reported moderate positive impact
- **Habits of Participants (attendance, behavior)**
 - 71.4% (30 programs) reported substantial positive impact
 - 19% (8 programs) reported moderate positive impact
- **Participant's Civic Engagement**
 - 59.5% (25 programs) reported substantial positive impact
 - 33.3% (14 programs) reported moderate positive impact



Students Say...

“Teaching them (students) to have that love for books and to help kids learn is worth more than a grade any day!”

- Middle school student

“They (senior citizens) have a lot of respect for us. We need to respect them, too. I like interacting with them. Talking to them makes you realize their hardships when they were our age.”

- Upper Elementary student

Beneficiaries Say...



- “I appreciate these kids coming. It means a lot to me.”

- *Senior Citizen*

- “It’s outstanding! It connects the community to the school.”

- *Grandmother of Science Saturday student*



Teachers Say...

“Service-learning re-ignited the passion of teaching within me. Service-learning allowed me to weave life skills into the curriculum. I noticed emotional growth within my students, a decrease in negative behavior in my class, and stronger bonds within the community.”

- Craig Howat
Teacher, St. Charles Parish



Teachers Say...

Not only did our service-learning project provide our students with in-depth experiences in writing and composing letters, but the real-life experiences that our students received in compassion and caring was immeasurable.”

- Carolyn Bankston
Albany Upper Elementary



Principals Say...

“I was very proud to have the Learn and Serve America program at my school. To me, the most positive effect besides learning was that our students were growing into responsible mature adults.”

- Orene Lea, retired principal
Chesbrough Elementary
Kentwood

Administrators Say...

“When students participate in service-learning activities, they see themselves as part of that community. Service-learning creates life-long citizens that give back to society.

When students are serving others, they think less of their own wants and more about the needs of others.

Service-learning is about educating the entire child.”

- Tresa Webre
former principal, Luling Elementary
now St. Charles Parish School Board office

QUESTIONS?

**We're
here
for
you!**



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