

# ELLs and Service Learning – Perfect Together



# Service Learning

versus

## Community Service

- Community service is a project that helps the community.
- Service learning is a service project that is tied to curriculum.



# Why Service Learning?

- Maryland requires service learning as requirement for HS graduation.
- NJ is one of seven states that include it in the state's education standards and has policies regarding funding.
- Possible legislation may mandate Service Learning for HS graduation in New Jersey.

# Why Service Learning with ELLs?



- *ELLs can feel sad, ridiculed, ostracized, even bullied.*
- *They want to be part of a community.*
- *They can participate with limited language proficiency.*

# How can Service Learning help ELLs?

- Actual application of skills and learning that address complex subjects/problems/skills and critical thinking.
- Allows for positive, cooperative, meaningful, and real activities.

# How can Service Learning help ELLs?

- Improves interpersonal, leadership, and cooperative skills that promote and support social, emotional and cognitive learning development.
- Increases awareness of current local, national, and world issues.

# How can Service Learning help ELLs?

- Provides students with experience and contacts that can help them in their career choices.
- Gives them the possibility to make a difference for their new community/state/country.

# Service Learning helps Educators and Communities

- Revitalizes the joy of teaching.
- Provides community with human resources and future civic leaders that can meet their needs.
- Educates the students about the community's issues.

# Service Learning helps Educators and Communities

- Encourages interactive teaching methods and reciprocal cooperation between students, faculty, and communities.
- Promotes networking between educators, students, organizations, and community that can be mutually beneficial both during and after a project.
- Increases opportunities for professional recognition and reward.



# McFlowertown Award



# Stream Monitoring



Science Decathletes  
and Americorps  
Watershed Ambassador



# Rain Garden



# How to start you own Service Learning Project

## Students Take the Lead to:

Find a relevant idea/project

Create proposal (timeline, budget, curriculum)

Apply for funding

Apply for approvals

Do It!

Follow-up/Reflect

# Let's Try It!

*What is a need your students see?*

Environmental? (recycling, clean-up, solar energy, water

Academic? (library/school renewal, mentoring, etc.)

Medical? (Medical kits, dental services/prevention)

Societal? (soup kitchen, elderly aid, etc.)

# What can we do about it?

Students create the proposal (timeline, budget, curriculum)

- Brainstorm possible solutions with students
  - Look online for other successful projects
    - Ask co-workers, friends, family, local organizations
  - Devise budget
    - Connect to curriculum

# Persistence is the Key!

Apply for approvals (principal, school board, town, etc.)

Apply for funding (if necessary/possible)

Does your school/PTA provide funding/grants for Service Learning? Search for local organizations that will donate time/\$/goods/services. Are there local/national grants available? (some websites listed at end)

Publicize your work via press releases, etc.

# After the Project

- Students should follow-up and reflect
- Write thank you notes to key supporters
- Apply for awards and recognitions
- Enjoy the results of the project

# Resources

## Funding

[www.service-learningpartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=tr\\_funding](http://www.service-learningpartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=tr_funding)

[www.servicelearning.org/funding\\_source](http://www.servicelearning.org/funding_source)

[www.servicelearning.org/lsa/lsa\\_page/index.php](http://www.servicelearning.org/lsa/lsa_page/index.php)

## Service Learning websites

[www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org)

[www.learnandserve.gov](http://www.learnandserve.gov)

[www.service-learningpartnership.org](http://www.service-learningpartnership.org)

## Service Learning Ideas

[www.servicelearning.org/slice](http://www.servicelearning.org/slice)

(Service Learning Ideas and Curriculum Examples (SLICE) website)