

K-12 Service-Learning

- Student
- Teacher
- School
- Community

FACT SHEET



Service-Learning applies classroom curriculum to community service through real-life projects.

What Is High Quality Service-Learning?

- A teaching and learning *methodology* that takes place when a community service project is directly aligned with classroom curriculum.
- A mindset, not a program; with a hands-on approach to mastering subject material while fostering civic responsibility.
- A method of encouraging student learning and development through active participation in an organized service to the community.

Arizona students have opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom and into their community. This happens by actively being engaged in community service projects that are directly aligned to their curriculum.

In this more personally interesting and contextually relevant environment, the students are given the necessary functional tools to provide that civic service – while advancing and achieving their academic goals.

Examples

- Studying the consequences of natural disasters, a class designs a kit for families to use to collect their important papers in case of evacuation. Students then distribute kits to community members.
- Fourth graders enhance their reading and writing skills and learn the importance of literacy for kindergarten children by developing ABC books. As part of the curriculum, students make bound volumes with specially designed book covers. Then they spend time reading their ABC books with kindergartners. Through this project fourth graders meet grade level objectives while engaging in service to others.
- High school foreign language students create English vocabulary books for elementary non English speaking students and other local organizations. Through creating the books, the high school students increase their knowledge of Spanish vocabulary and Hispanic culture.

Benefits of Service-Learning

- Promotes school engagement
- Promotes personal, academic and social growth and, civic responsibility and career exploration.
- Extends the learning beyond the classroom and into the community
- Provides an opportunity for students to use skills and knowledge in real-life situations
- Develop students self esteem, and interpersonal, decision making, and problem solving skills at all grade levels.
- Provides engaging and productive opportunities for young people to work with others in their community
- Increases students Developmental Assets®
- Fosters a sense of caring for others while helping themselves at the same time
- Connects schools to people and programs in the community.
- Meets community needs through the curriculum focused service projects.

Arizona Educational Initiatives That Use Service-Learning

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Academic Achievement
- Bullying Prevention
- Career and Technical Education
- Character Education

- Dropout Prevention
- Early Childhood Education
- Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP)
- Honors Programs
- Nutrition Programs
- School Improvement
- Special Education/High School Transition
- STEM
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Arizona Service-Learning Standards

In the *Arizona Service-Learning Curriculum Guidelines* book, standards and indicators for service-learning are divided into three educational grade levels: K-3, 4-8 and 9-12.

- Standards: represent the major content, knowledge and tasks to be attained in Service-Learning at each educational level
- Indicators: support skills, knowledge, or attitudes that lead to mastery of a standard. The indicators are also used as the basis for the development of assessment criteria.
- Verbs: are related to the *Taxonomy for Learning* by A. Bloom. This structure provides a measurable set of verbs that represent a level of learning to be attained by the student.

FOR FREE EXCELLENT SERVICE-LEARNING RESOURCES, go to:
Service-LearningArizona.org

Then click on **Teachers Resources** for books:

- *K-12 Service-Learning Project Planning Toolkit*
- *Service for a Life Time*
- ...and much more!!!