Resource 11

How to Create a Service-Learning Partnership

Use this tool to develop a service-learning partnership.

Service-learning isn’t a new idea. It is a concept that emphasizes student involvement in learning outside of the classroom. This allows students to integrate personal experience with structured supervision for authentic learning.

The National Youth Leadership Council and the Search Institute funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation have identified key outcomes for students involved in service learning programs.

- Significantly improved sense of being able to make a difference for others
- Increased concern for getting good grades
- Significantly improved sense of duty to help others

The PARR model for Service-Learning suggests the following key components for an effective service-learning project. It is important to identify learning objectives related to the participating organization. If interested, a representative from the organization will help a school implement the PARR model.

**Preparation:** Introduce young people to the issues or topics that will be addressed in the program, select appropriate projects and provide background information and training.

*What does this organization/agency provide to the community? What are the skills and knowledge necessary to work in this organization/agency? What information should students be familiar with before contacting the organization/agency?*

**Action:** Helping others or the community through direct or indirect service.

*What will the student learn during the service-learning project? What will be the student contribution to the agency/organization and to the community that it serves? What new skills or insights will students develop?*

**Reflection:** Look back on the experience, raise and address questions, explore other opportunities for making a difference and assess the project or program. Have students/participants keep a journal of their experiences and insights.

*How has this project changed perceptions of the agency/organization? What was learned from community members served by the agency/organization? Do students wish to pursue additional skill building or learning from their service-learning experience?*

**Recognition:** Honor what was done, celebrate accomplishments and make plans and commitments for the future.

*How will learning from the service-learning project be shared? With whom will this information be shared? How can collaboration and assistance be sustained?*