

School Improvement Through Service-Learning

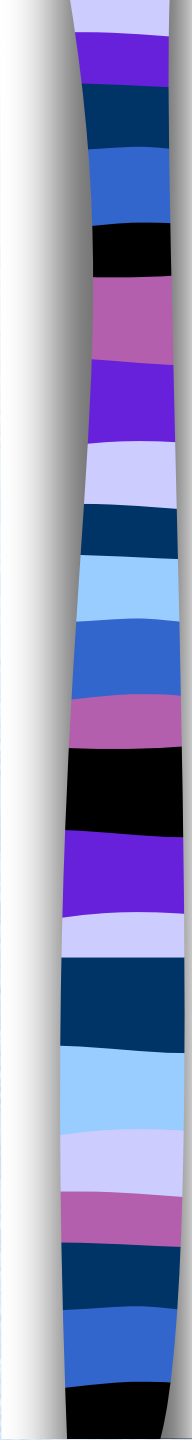




What is Service-Learning?

Service-Learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning.

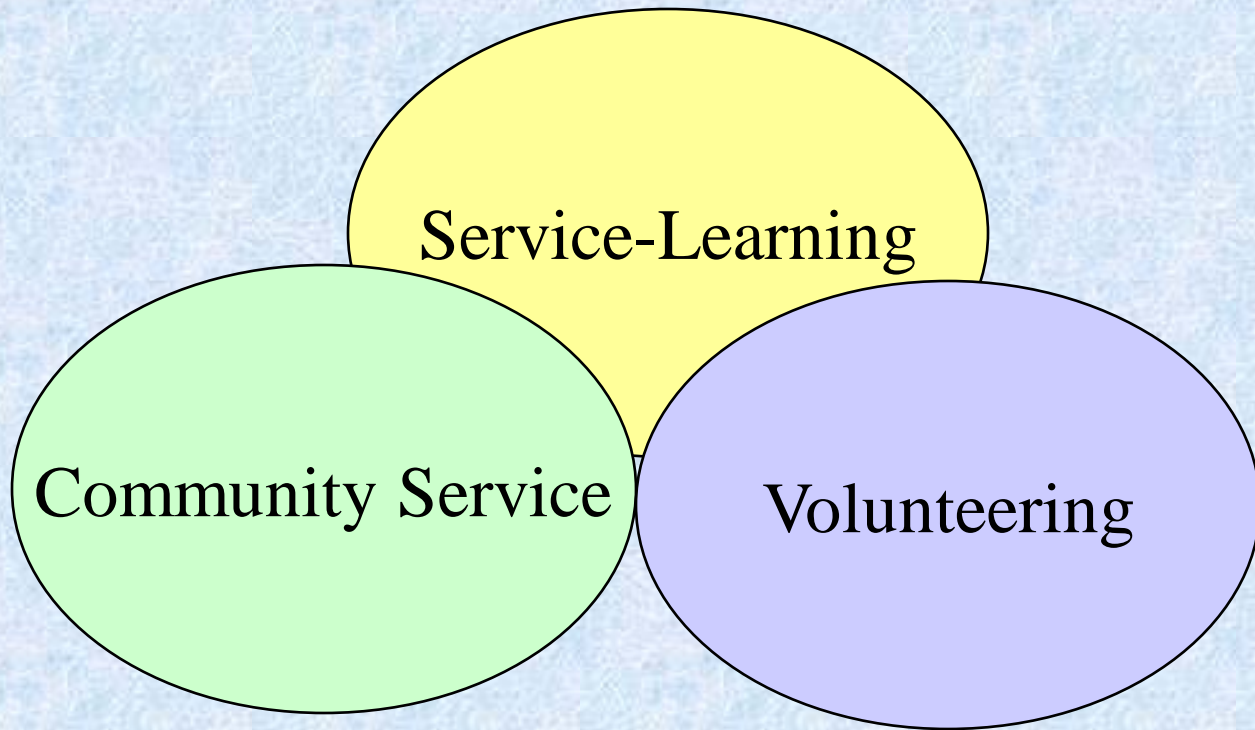
In Maryland, service-learning activities are tied to *Best Practices* and other accountability measures.



**Service-Learning Projects
are linked to education reform
initiatives such as:**

- MSA
- High School Assessments
- Career Connections/ School-to-Work
- Character Education
- Multicultural Education
- Dimensions of Learning
- Understanding by Design
- Closing the Gap

**Service-Learning is different from
community service and volunteering**





**Service-Learning is widely used nationally
in K-12 and higher education.**

A third of all public schools and half of all public high schools link service with the curriculum.

Parents broadly support service-learning in their children's education.

Service-Learning Impacts on Youth, 1990-1999;
Kellogg & Kauffman, 2000.

Service-Learning Impacts, 1990-
1999.

In Maryland, Service-Learning is a graduation requirement for all students.* Students must complete:

(1) seventy-five hours of student service that includes preparation, action, and reflection components and that, at the discretion of the local school system, may begin during the middle grades; **or**

(2) a locally-designed program in student service that has been approved by the State Superintendent of Schools.

Maryland State Code (COMAR) 13A.03.02
*all students earning a diploma



Key Characteristics of high quality Service-Learning

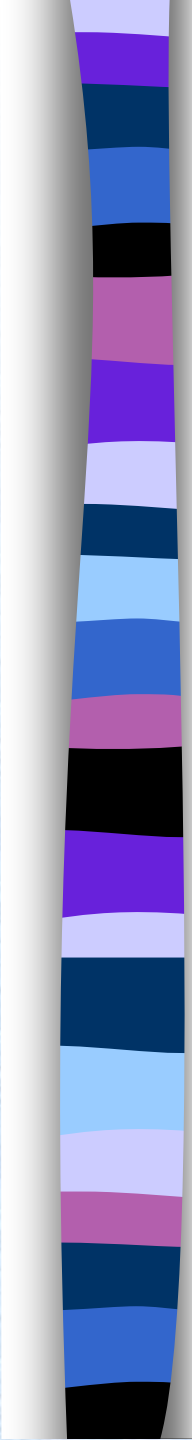
- Rigorous standards are clear and known to all
- Roles and responsibilities are understood
- Building coordinators are supported by Principal
- Students participate as leaders and trainers
- Regular training occurs on standards and practice

Maryland State Department of Education,
Report to State Board of Education, June 2001



Research supports:

- Service-learning participation was associated with higher scores and higher grades on the state test of basic skills.
- Middle and high school students who tutor increased their grade point averages and test scores in reading/language arts and math and were less likely to drop out of school.
- Weiler, LaGoy, Crane, and Rovner, 1998. Anderson, Kinsley, Negroni, and Price, 1991. Shumer, 1994; Shaffer, 1993; Dean and Murdock, 1992; O'Bannon, 1999. Follman, 1999. Loesch-Griffin, Petrides, and Pratt, 2005. Stephens, 1995.



- Students who engaged in service-learning came to class on time more often, completed more classroom tasks, and took the initiative to ask questions more often

- Elementary and middle school students had improved problem solving skills and increased interest in academics

Weiler, LaGoy, Crane, and Rovner, 1998. Anderson, Kinsley, Negroni, and Price, 1991. Shumer, 1994; Shaffer, 1993; Dean and Murdock, 1992; O'Bannon, 1999. Follman, 1999. Loesch-Griffin, Petrides, and Pratt, 1995. Stephens, 1995.



Service-Learning activities decrease likelihood of students engaging in risky behaviors. Students are less likely to:

- Be referred to the office for discipline
- Engage in behaviors leading to pregnancy and arrest
- Engage in unprotected sexual activity or violent behavior, and they have
- Reduced levels of alienation and behavioral problems.

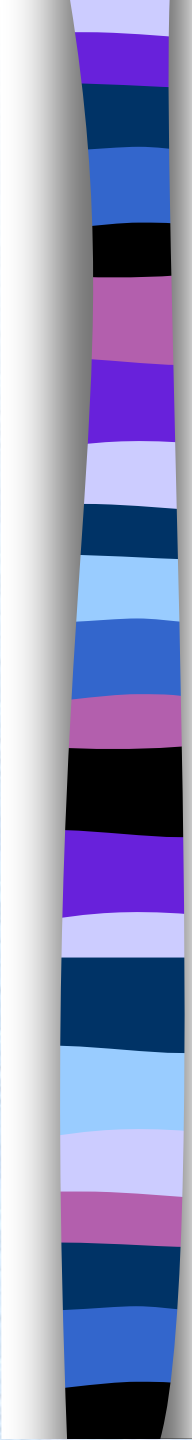
Stephens, 1995; Yates and Youniss, 1996; Follman, 1997; Melchior, 1999; Allen, Kuperminc, Philliber, and Herre, 1994; Shaffer, 1993; and others



Students develop interpersonal and work skills through service-learning:

- Trustworthiness, reliability and responsibility
- Empathy and cognitive complexity
- Acceptance of cultural diversity
- Dependability and comfort in communicating.

Stephens, 1995; Morgan and Streb, 1999; Courneya, 1994; Melchior, 1999; Berkas, 1997; Shaffer, 1993; Loesch-Griffin, Petrides, and Pratt, 1995.



Quality Service-Learning improves the performance of students and schools through:

- Improved academic achievement
- Deepened civic involvement
- Broadened interpersonal skills
- Increased self-esteem
- Expanded school pride and spirit
- Strengthened school-community links
- Enhanced school climate



MSDE Service-Learning Materials

- Curriculum,
- Video,
- Model Program Guides,
- Interdisciplinary Webs,
- Best Practices Resources

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse

800-808-SERVE

MSDE Service-Learning Staff 410-767-0358

MSDE's Service-Learning website:

**[http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/
programs/servicelearning/](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/servicelearning/)**