



Seven Elements of High Quality Service Learning

Integrated Learning

- The service learning project has clearly articulated knowledge, skill or value goals that arise from broader classroom or school goals.
- The service informs the academic learning content, and the academic learning content informs the service.
- Life skills learned outside the classroom are integrated back into classroom learning.

High Quality Service

- The service response to an actual community need that is recognized by the community.
- The service is age-appropriate and well-organized.
- The service is designed to achieve significant benefits for students and community.

Collaboration

- The service learning project is a collaboration among as many of these partners as is feasible: students, parents, community-based organization staff, school administrators, teachers, and recipients of service.
- All partners benefit from the project and contribute to its planning.

Student Voice

Students participate actively in:

- choosing and planning the service project;
- planning and implementing the reflection sessions, evaluation, and celebration;
- taking on roles and tasks that are appropriate to their age.

Civic Responsibility

- The service learning project promotes students' responsibility to care for others and to contribute to the community.
- By participating in the service learning project, students understand how they can impact their community.

Reflection

- Reflection establishes connections between students' service experiences and the academic curriculum.
- Reflection occurs before, during, and after the service learning project.

Evaluation

- All the partners, especially students, are involved in evaluating the service learning project.
- The evaluation seeks to measure progress toward the learning and service goals of the project.