



Bringing Learning to Life

Learn and Serve – Michigan

What is Learn and Serve – Michigan?

Service-learning is a teaching and learning approach that connects meaningful service to the community with classroom instruction. When done well, it enriches learning, cultivates civic responsibility, and fosters personal growth. Service-learning helps youth see beyond the classroom and into the community where they learn math, science, language arts, and other required subjects by addressing community needs and solving real-life problems.

Service-learning creates a commitment among young people to be part of the solution – and also increases their likelihood of becoming life-long volunteers.

Learn and Serve - Michigan, administered by the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education, is part of the Learn and Serve America grant program supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The MCSC funds the development and implementation of high-quality, academic service-learning programs in K-12 schools and community-based programs.

16 counties will host 20 Learn and Serve – Michigan school-based programs in 2010.

- These programs will mobilize nearly **900 teachers** to engage at least **25,000 students** in service-learning activities this year.
- Through more than **625,000 hours** of service-learning, those students will address issues important to their community and relevant to classroom learning.
- More than **4,000 adult volunteers** will assist Learn and Serve – Michigan programs in completing community-revitalization projects focused on issues such as: health education, food collection/distribution, child literacy, recycling, animal welfare, and others.

Financial Impact

The Michigan Community Service Commission, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education, is granting **\$361,283 in Federal Funds** for Learn and Serve – Michigan's 2009-2010 school-based programs.

Learn and Serve – Michigan's local school-based programs for 2009-2010 will leverage **\$416,006 in Match Funds**.

"Service-learning has a positive impact on students' academic achievement, personal and social development, and civic engagement. It provides numerous opportunities for students to apply what they are learning to solve real world community problems."

Mike Flanagan
Superintendent of
Public Instruction,
Michigan Department of
Education



In 2008-2009, Learn and Serve – Michigan supported 22 school-based programs and 1 community-based program.

- **1,305 teachers** engaged **35,531 students** in **1,062,726 hours** of service-learning in the 2008-2009 school year.
- **2,558 adult volunteers** assisted Learn and Serve – Michigan participants in addressing local issues through community-revitalization projects.

Service-Learning has been shown to:

- Build critical thinking and communication skills,
- Increase student motivation, and
- Improve academic knowledge and performance.

Based on research conducted by RMC, Inc., organizations that partner with students on service-learning say the activity:

- Positively affects students' respect for others,
- Creates commitment to working on social or community problems,
- Encourages a sense of belonging to a community, and
- Boosts self esteem through enabling students' to view their achievements.

"Service-learning has given me tremendous opportunities to use what I am learning in my classroom. My teachers have challenged me to seek solutions to issues in my community and make a difference. I plan to continue my service in college next year and beyond."

Janelle Wiesen
Belding High School Senior

"As a member of the Michigan Community Service Commission Board and a life-long educator, I am proud of the impact service-learning has on our state's students both through service AND academics. Service-learning brings relevance to learning and it helps students connect to and better understand their community, school, and the needs of others."

Michael J. Hill
Superintendent,
Traverse Bay
Intermediate School
District
MCSC Commissioner

M I C H I G A N



**COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

C O M M I S S I O N

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