

Strategic Plan Summary

Service Learning

Design and implement a K-12 service learning program that is embedded in the curriculum and culture of the school and institutionalized as a core instructional strategy.

An important component of our mission as a public school is to foster a sense of connectedness to and involvement in the community and the world. This District places great importance on strengthening community by helping others.

This Strategic Plan adopts a model for instilling in all students a greater sense of their role in the world by creating a link between classroom learning and the ability of all people to contribute to society. Rather than setting time aside from curriculum and instruction to participate in a community service project, students at all grade levels will engage in projects that are an integral part of their curriculum and that enable students to gain a greater understanding through hands-on experience that each individual can have a powerful impact on the world in which he or she lives.

Examples of possible service learning projects include:

- An elementary class takes water samples from the Hudson River, as part of a unit of study on the river and its impact on industry in this region, and sends those samples to an appropriate environmental group to express concern about the quality of our river water;
- A middle school Language Arts class, as part of a unit on creative writing and storytelling, shares its own stories with local senior citizens, and encourages the seniors to share their stories;
- A high school math class conducts a statistical analysis of village traffic patterns and presents the results to the village safety committee to inform efforts to improve traffic safety;
- A high school senior undertakes an internship with the County legislature as part of an independent study on local government.

Strategic Plan Outline

Service Learning

Goal 4: Design and implement a K-12 service learning program which is embedded in the curriculum and culture of the school and institutionalized as a core instructional strategy.

Strategy 1: Create a K-12 service-learning program.

- 4.1.1: Convene a team of administrators, teachers and staff to study existing models of service-learning programs and develop a draft model appropriate for the District.
- 4.1.2: Engage all faculty and staff, as well as student and parent groups, in a dialogue on the proposed model, to gather feedback and generate possible modifications.
- 4.1.3: Organize professional development activities for all faculty to ensure effective implementation of new program.
- 4.1.4: Implement newly-developed K-12 service learning program.
- 4.1.5: Establish procedures for continuous assessment and, as needed, modification, of the District service-learning program.