

Service Learning Pilot Project Wave II

Office of High School Development

Chicago Public Schools

Service Learning is a teaching and learning methodology that connects classroom curriculum with identified community issues and needs. Service Learning engages students in projects that serve the community and build their social and academic capacities.

The Service Learning Initiative of Chicago Public Schools, first implemented in 1998, is moving into the second stage of development. The second stage will be characterized by an increased emphasis on classroom-based Service Learning. Over the next five years of the Service Learning Initiative, we want to encourage schools and teachers to employ Service Learning as a classroom strategy that enhances teaching and learning.

To support schools in this work, the Service Learning Department of the Office of High School Development will work closely with 15-20 high schools during the 2003-04 academic year to strengthen classroom-based Service Learning within Chicago Public Schools. The pilot project will address four specific areas in order to strengthen classroom-based Service Learning:

- ✓ Coach support
- ✓ Professional development and networking opportunities for teachers
- ✓ Access to and coordination of community and organizational resources
- ✓ Curricular resources

In addition to these support activities, the Service Learning Initiative will work to identify other “pilot opportunities” for participating schools. The Service Learning Initiative will continue to address policy issues that may currently impede effective classroom-based Service Learning practice.

Every school that has not already participated in the pilot project is eligible to apply for inclusion in the Service Learning Pilot Project Wave II. However, the Service Learning Initiative will be limited to working with 15-20 schools and have the following expectations of participating schools:

- ✓ Demonstrated commitment to developing or strengthening a comprehensive Service Learning strategy
- ✓ Demonstrated commitment to building or strengthening classroom-based Service Learning practices and opportunities
- ✓ Demonstrated support from the school principal and at least one teacher, the Service Learning coach and a community partner
- ✓ Interest in collaborating and networking with other schools in the initiative
- ✓ Commitment to participate in professional development opportunities during the summer and school year

Service Learning Pilot Project Wave II

If your school is interested in participating in the Service Learning Pilot Project Wave II, please complete the following application. As a condition for participation in the Pilot Project, we will expect that schools will develop strategies to integrate Service Learning with classroom practice and develop a comprehensive multi-year plan by the end of the academic year to accomplish this goal.

1. Please describe, in the space provided, the current Service Learning activities at your school.
2. Discuss your school's vision for Service Learning.
3. Why does your school want to participate in the Service Learning Pilot Project Wave II? What do you expect to gain from participating in the pilot project?

4. Please discuss the nature of your school's relationship with your community. How are community organizations and institutions engaged in your Service Learning program?
5. What difficulties do you think you will encounter as your school moves toward a comprehensive Service Learning strategy that is integrated with classroom practice?

Applicant Information and Signatures

Date: _____

Service Learning coach: _____

SL coach's signature: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Fax/E-mail: _____

Principal's name: _____

Teacher's name/Content area: _____

Teacher's signature: _____

Community partner: _____

Community partner's contact/Signature: _____

Select one of your community partners you think can represent your school's engagement with community organizations. Identify at least one teacher who already integrates Service Learning in classroom practice or is committed to classroom integration during the coming academic year. Participating schools will be expected to identify 5 - 10 teachers for training opportunities.

Principal Statement and Signature

I agree to support the efforts of my Service Learning coach and teachers to integrate Service Learning into classroom practice.

Principal's Signature

Date

The Office of High School Development will make final decisions about applicants to the Service Learning Pilot Project Wave II. This application is due by Friday, April 25, 2003, at 5:00 p.m. Please feel free to re-create this document on your computer. Please send to:

Jon Schmidt,
Manager, Service Learning
Chicago Public Schools - Office of High School Development
125 South Clark, 9th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Mail run #125
jschmidt@cps.k12.il.us