

# HIGH QUALITY SERVICE-LEARNING/ PROJECT BASED LEARNING

## A Planning Model for "Learning with Purpose . . . Serving with Passion"

This planning model, developed and utilized by Partnerships Make A Difference, blends widely endorsed definitions and key elements of Service-Learning and Project Based Learning. The model applies the "best of both worlds" in providing educators with an authentic instructional framework that effectively integrates rigor, relevance, and relationships.



### Demonstration/Celebration "Making Learning Visible"

- Assessment
- Validation of Gains and Impact
- "Capturing the Magic"
- Sharing New Knowledge with Authentic Audiences
- Academic + Social + Emotional Growth = "Learning that Lasts"



### Investigation "Exploring Possibilities"

- Project Idea(s)
- Local and Global Needs
- Driving Question(s)
- Emotionally Engaging Entry Event(s)
- Need to Know
- Initial Inquiry
- Students' Strengths and Interests



Authentic Issue or Need  
Compelling Topic or Question  
Academic Focus  
Curriculum Integration/ Standards

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### Learning by Doing

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21st Century Skills  
Multiple Intelligences  
Student Voice, Choice, and Passion  
Collaboration/Teamwork  
Career Development

### Reflection (ongoing) "Attaching Meaning"

- What? So What? Now What?
- Revision/refinement of products/services as needed
- Truer, deeper learning



### Action/Implementation "Becoming Changemakers"

- "Doing the Work of Real People"
- Authentic Product(s)/ Service(s) for Authentic Audience(s)/Client(s)
- Categories:
  - Direct Service
  - Education and Awareness
  - Advocacy
  - Philanthropy/Fundraising

### Preparation/Planning "Becoming Experts"

- Continued Inquiry/Research
- Necessary Knowledge and Skill Development
- Community Partners/Mentors
- Logistics



# Definition of High Quality Service-Learning

**Source: Corporation for National and Community Service**

Service-learning is a method of teaching and learning that **connects classroom lessons with meaningful service to the community**. Integrated into the academic curriculum, **service-learning helps students and schools meet academic goals**. Service-learning **enables young people to apply their knowledge in support of their neighbors and community**, even as they gain knowledge and skills from meeting real community needs. **Students build character and become active citizens** as they work with others in their school or community to create service projects in areas like education, public safety, and the environment. [Note: Service-Learning is a form of Project Based Learning.]

# Definition of Project Based Learning

**Source: Buck Institute for Education**

Project Based Learning (PBL) is an instructional approach built upon authentic learning activities that engage student interest and motivation. These activities are designed to answer a question or solve a problem and generally reflect the types of learning and work people do in the everyday world outside the classroom. PBL is generally done by groups of students working together toward a common goal.

PBL is a systematic teaching method that engages students in learning essential knowledge and life-enhancing skills through an extended, student-influenced inquiry process structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed products and tasks.

