

**Serve Learn Educational Consultants
Service Learning Standards and Benchmarks**

Standard 1: Investigate

Learners understand that investigating the assets and needs of the community makes service effective

1.1 Understand how our skills, and passion can be applied to community need and identify areas for ongoing personal growth

1.2. Identify curricular-related community cause or concern that helps advance our knowledge, skills, and understandings

1.3 Use action research methods to authenticate community assets and community needs

- Media
- Interviews
- Surveys
- Observation

1.4 Identify reciprocal community projects to meet the partnership/collaborative needs for impact

1.5 Demonstrate collaboration by creating or working with a variety of partners/collaboratives, for example: youth educators, families, community members, community based organizations, government agencies, UN initiatives, and specific experts

Standard 2: Preparation and Planning

Learners understand that preparation and planning ensure clarity of purpose to meet genuine needs.

2.1 Develop questions for a deeper understanding related to issue/cause/problem

2.2 Understand Bias: Examine preconceptions and assumptions

2.3 Understand social and civic issues related to the cause/problem/issue and impact

2.4 Make connections to learning and the world around us (transfer)

2.5 Consider perspectives: Identify and analyze different points of view of all involved

2.6 Identify and develop specific skills needed to apply knowledge toward the community need

2.7 Generate ideas and develop a plan of action with specific roles and responsibilities for all involved

2.8 Identify how learning is applied to, and magnified by, addressing an authentic need and contributing to the benefit of others

Standard 3: Action

Learners understand that implementing a plan of action generates change and results.

3.1 Implement, monitor and adjust the action plan; action taken may be:

- Direct
- Indirect
- Advocacy
- Research

**In a balanced program, students would have the opportunity to experience all forms of action- working with people, the environment or animals*

3.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of the plan through collaborating with, and soliciting feedback from, all constituents involved

3.3 Fulfill, adjust, and augment roles and responsibilities as needed

3.4 Purposefully develop skills throughout the process (examples- Critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, adaptability, creativity)

3.5 Document the process to collect evidence of the service learning

3.5 Purposefully develop dispositions in action (examples- Empathy, Caring, Respect, Open Minded)

3.6 Transfer concepts learned into meaningful action for impact

Standard 4: Reflection

Learners understand that reflection is ongoing, prompting deep thinking and analysis about oneself and one's relationship to society.

4.1 Understand the meaning and value of reflection in learning and life

4.2 Select the appropriate modality to reflect based on purpose and preference, for example: kinesthetic, artistic, verbal, written

4.3 Articulate and demonstrate understanding

4.4 Reflect to increase understand of self and others by: describing what happened (cognitive), expressing feelings (affective), generating ideas (taking initiative), asking questions (ongoing inquiry)

4.5 Reflect on the implementation of our plan of action

4.6 Making explicit connections between the learning, dispositions, and outcome

Standard 5: Demonstration and Communication

Learners understand that, through sharing their demonstration and communication, they solidify their understanding and evoke response from others.

5.1. Consolidate ongoing evidence of the learning and the service

5.2 Articulate to an audience what I learned, how I learned, and how I/we contributed to meeting a community need and the impact

Possibilities include: performance, blog, presentations, conclusive journal entry, podcasts, photos, illustrations, newspaper articles, letter, scrapbook, video

5.3 Make suggestions for ongoing collaborative improvement/sustainability

5.4 Gather, receive and reflect on responses from the targeted audiences