

Telluride School District Service Learning Program

The Telluride R-1 School District believes that “service learning” is an important teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen a sense of community.

Objectives of service learning in Telluride School District are:

- Service learning projects/opportunities will address an authentic, identified need within the local, regional, or global community.
- Service learning projects/opportunities will combine service objectives and learning objectives.
- Service learning projects/opportunities will represent measurable and beneficial change in both the recipient(s) and the provider(s) of the service.

TIMS (Grades 6-8) Program Components

Group Service Learning: Service learning opportunities will be integrated into the curricular delivery within each grade level (6-8). Teams of teachers will work with students to identify a project and /or non-profit organization that are ideally integrated into the curriculum. Two examples below show how service learning can integrate meaningful community service with instruction and reflection in order to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen a sense of community:

- 6th grade- Food Project PBL unit: Students will connect with local and or regional food banks in order to understand the economic conditions that necessitate the establishment of a food bank, processes in which a food bank operates, and ways that youth can help ensure that under-privileged have access to food.
- 7th grade- San Miguel Watershed PBL unit: Students will develop an understanding of what constitutes a healthy watershed, identify potential hazards or threats, work with local environmental organizations to monitor the health of the watershed, and develop action plans to ensure the future health of the watershed. Information learned will be disseminated to the public through community PSAs and/or presentations.

Individual Service Learning : Recognizing that for some students service learning is intrinsically rewarding and/or an integral experience within their family life, an individual service learning strand will be available for student. Upon completion of accountability requirements specified below, students who involve themselves with an organization or volunteer for a program in which they receive no tangible reward will be recognized for their service and contributions by the school.

Accountability:

Group Service Learning:

1. Each student in grades six through eight will complete an end of the year survey targeting the quality of experience and learning opportunities made available through their project
2. Each organization associated with the grade level project will be provided the opportunity to give feedback to the teachers and students who were involved.
3. Each student will be required to write a reflective essay that speaks to the benefits the student gained and the benefits their contributions have made to the community.

Individual Service Learning:

1. Each student will be required to write a reflective essay that provides a description of the project, speaks to the benefits the student gained and details the benefits their contributions have made to the community.
2. Two options for service learning verification:

Option #1:

A log of hours served (24 hours minimum) along with a narrative description of the level of the student's involvement will be submitted. This log must be verified by an official of the organization.

Option #2: A letter of recommendation from the director and/or supervisor of the organization / project detailing the student's involvement and contributions made by the student will be submitted.

High School Service Learning Program

An effective service learning program must be focused both on **service** and **learning**. Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, Service Learning will be tied to the Intensive Study Period (ISP) program. Each round of ISP's will offer at least one (1) service-oriented ISP. During a Service Learning ISP, students will complete in-depth study and research on the focus of the study, and will engage with their topic of study in a hands-on, experiential way. Each Service Learning ISP will culminate in a service project tied directly back to the learning. The requirement for graduation will be to complete three (3) service ISP's during the course of a four-year high school career.

Class of 2011: Will be grandfathered into old policy. If they would like to complete their hours they can and if they have completed their hours they will have fulfilled the requirement. If at the beginning of their senior year they need more than 20 hours, they will be required to do a service ISP.

Class of 2012: Required to complete 1 service ISP.

Class of 2013: Required to complete 2 service ISP's.

Class of 2014 & beyond: Required to complete 3 service ISP's.

Telluride High School Community Service Award

Students may apply each year to receive a *THS Community Service Award*. Those who receive the award must meet the requirements of the Community Service committee in each of the following areas:

- Outline of projects
- Log of hours (24 hours minimum)
- One-page self-reflection
- Two (or more) letters of recommendation

ADOPTION DATE: August 16, 2011 (revisions approved)

Telluride R-1 School District