



# Community Service Education Programs Best Practices

Community service education programs are real-world civic engagement opportunities that schools may offer to students. These school-sponsored programs enable school districts to create partnerships with citizens, community organizations, civic groups, and businesses to promote good citizenship. Districts may voluntarily implement community service programs as they are encouraged but not required.

## **The program provides:**

- 1.** Provisions and standards conducive to the establishment of lasting relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships between community business/organizations and school districts.
- 2.** Greater community access to school facilities and programs to promote increased achievement by children.
- 3.** Accessibility to school facilities for citizen and community use.
- 4.** Planning and development, including setting priorities and determining program needs, is in partnership between the school district and local residents, community leaders, and families.
- 5.** Utilization of community resources.
- 6.** New and improved programs that improve opportunities for all residents of the community.
- 7.** Effective youth training programs and employment counseling in schools including paid work experience with the private sector entities.
- 8.** Student involvement in community service - learning activities, organizations and intergenerational programs.
- 9.** Volunteer programs for parents, businesses, community agency representatives, retirees, and other students in the classroom to aid teachers.
- 10.** Supplemental or additional programs for youth from middle school through high school that may consist of enrichment, individual, supplemental, recreational, and cultural activities and vocational programs.
- 11.** Programs to meet the individual needs of all people who reside in the district being served.