



Social Science & Civic Engagement



Vision: Every student in Chicago Public Schools has the skills, knowledge and habits necessary to effectively contribute to and participate in the social, political, and economic life of their communities and world.

Mission: To partner with students, educators and community to build transformational schools that ignite curiosity, promote agency, and elevate active participation in our Democracy.

Service Learning Community Partner Overview

Please Note: CPS has changed its Service Learning requirement, and the role of partners has correspondingly changed. Details are below.

Service Learning Community Partners are community organizations that provide support for community-based research, skill development, and civic action for Chicago Public Schools. Partners should complete the partner process and obtain certified approval status with the Department of Social Science & Civic Engagement (SSCE).

To strengthen civic engagement across the district, the partner process was established to better facilitate the relationship between community organizations and schools, invite community partners to help us achieve district goals, and ensure that project opportunities meet service learning criteria. This process intends to support teachers by providing a list of vetted partners that can support classroom-integrated service learning projects. The list also assists students who are looking for out-of-school opportunities for civic action and service learning.

CPS Partner Guidance

Service learning extends learning into the community and builds a strong sense of agency among young people as they engage in critical thinking, community relationship building, leadership, and reflection. By connecting classroom curriculum with community research and action projects, service learning projects help students develop their social, intellectual, and emotional capacities while contributing to democratic life.

[Service Learning Components: Preparation, Action, Reflection](#)

PREPARATION: This component involves students in applying content they learn in class to real-world situations. Service learning projects engage students in developing the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of active participants in democratic society. Lessons and themes connected to course content anchor students' learning.

ACTION: This component involves students making decisions and taking action as participants in democratic society. Service learning projects deepen students' engagement in the community while enabling them to develop new skills, capacities, and insights.

REFLECTION: This component supports students' exploration and understanding of themselves as active agents in their own lives and in the world. Service learning includes processes for students to distill and continue to grow the knowledge, skills, and dispositions they have acquired through the project.

[Guidelines for Classroom-Integrated Service Learning Projects](#)

To learn more about high quality civic engagement, please familiarize yourself with the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) [standards](#).

We also recommend that you read two articles: [What Kind of Citizen](#), and [Traditional vs. Critical Service Learning](#).

[CPS Volunteer Policy for in-school contact with students](#)

[Service Learning Community Partner List](#)

[Click here for Student Independent Project
Service Learning Community Partners](#)

***Do you have more suggestions or questions? Please share with Alejanda Frausto,
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*"The dream is real, my friends. The failure to make it work is the unreality."
-- Toni Cade Bambara*