



## SERVICE LEARNING

**Service Learning** is a career exploration activity in which the method of teaching and learning combines academic work with service and social action. Students complete a planned series of activities and apply their skills and knowledge to help meet a need in the school or greater community. Service learning projects may be individual, team or classroom oriented.

### Service learning experiences are designed to promote:

- Building academic and workplace skills;
- Exposure to careers and jobs;
- Building occupational knowledge; and
- Awareness of civic responsibility.

### Success Factors

- Allow students to design and select the service learning activity.
- Provide classroom preparation for service learning.
- Have students conduct preparatory research and report on the community need.
- Provide opportunities for students to reflect on their learning and contribution to the community.

### Key Legal, Safety & Health Issues

- Under both state and federal wage and hour laws, students cannot be required to complete unpaid service learning, community service or volunteer activities. (*Fair Labor Standards Act Section 3 (e)(4)(A)(i)*)

### Resources (to locate a resource visit [stc-clearinghouse.com](http://stc-clearinghouse.com) or [nww.org](http://nww.org))

*Report of the Superintendent's Service Learning Task Force*  
*Service Learning 2000 Center*  
*Youth Service California*  
*National Service Learning Clearinghouse*  
 California Law, Education and Labor Code

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/calserve/>  
<http://www.yscal.org/sl2000.html>  
<http://www.yscal.org>  
<http://www.servicelearning.org>  
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>

### REMEMBER... *All Work-Based Learning Experiences Should:*

- Be developmentally appropriate;
- Include an orientation for all parties;
- Identify learning objectives;
- Explore all aspects of the industry;
- Develop the SCANS<sup>1</sup> competencies;
- Assess student performance;
- Provide opportunities for reflection;
- Link to the student's next step;
- Be documented and recorded; and
- Comply with state and federal labor laws.

<sup>1</sup>SCANS is an acronym for the Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills, which created *The SCANS Report for America 2000*, issued by the US Department of Labor, April 1992. The report defines a set of skills and competencies necessary for success in the workplace.