

# 2009 MARYLAND SERVICE-LEARNING FACTS

Maryland was the first state to require service-learning hours for all public school students in order to graduate from high school, and is still the only state to do so.

- **Every student in Maryland must complete 75 service-learning hours** by the time they graduate from high school.

**Over 59,000 students from Maryland's graduating Class of 2008** completed a minimum of 75 service-learning hours.

- **Over four million hours of service-learning activities** is a conservative estimate of hours completed by the graduating Class of 2008. ( $59,000 \times 75 = 4,425,000$ )
  - Carroll County's graduating Class of 2008 averaged 145 service-learning hours per student, nearly double the state requirement.

**Approximately half a million Maryland students** engaged in 11,451 service-learning projects during the 2008-2009 school year.

- Approximately 17% of those projects were environmental service-learning projects.

An important part of **service-learning is teaching students about the issue being addressed** by their project and reflecting on the effectiveness of the project and what each student learned.

- If 50% of service-learning time is spent this way, each graduating class has still served **over two million hours of actual volunteer time in the community.**
- The graduating Class of 2008's **actual service-learning volunteer time amounts to an over \$42 million dollar value to the Maryland community.** (Independent Sector reported that for 2007, volunteer time in Maryland was equal to \$21.20 an hour.)

**All 24 local school systems in Maryland have developed individualized service-learning implementation plans** that map out exactly how students will be engaged in service-learning experiences: from which grade levels and courses will incorporate service-learning projects, to how staff will be trained, and how projects and programs will be evaluated.

- To varying degrees, service-learning activities can be found across grades Kindergarten through 12 and have been incorporated into almost every content area throughout Maryland.

**Service-learning provides opportunities for students to explore a variety of career paths.**

- Ten school systems have incorporated **service-learning activities in Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs.**
  - Many students have found lasting inspiration through their service-learning experiences which motivated them to go on to service-related careers such as social work, teaching, environmental sciences, bio-engineering, and more.

Maryland has trained more than **200 Service-Learning Fellows — educators who regularly engage students in high quality service-learning activities** and act as service-learning leaders and peer mentors.

## NATIONAL DATA

- The 2004 *Need in Deed* study found that **6th grade students who participated in service-learning programs scored higher on standardized tests** for language arts and science than non-participants (Billig 2004).
- A 2003 study of Colorado's *Learn and Serve* programs showed a **significant and positive connection between participation in service-learning and students' connection to their community and their school** (Kim and Billig 2003).