



Learn and Serve Alabama

On September 21, 1993, the National and Community Service Trust Act that created the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) was signed into law. The Corporation's mission is to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service that addresses the nation's educational, human, public safety, and environmental needs. The Alabama State Department of Education (SDE) has been awarded funds for over 12 years from CNCS to implement the statewide service-learning program *Learn and Serve Alabama*. The majority of this money is to be used to award new subgrants to local education agencies (LEAs) to administer service-learning programs. Service-learning subgrants are awarded on a competitive basis for a term of up to three years and are funded on a yearly basis. All grants are subject to an annual performance review, as well as the availability of funds from the CNCS.

Service-learning is defined as a teaching method by which students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that:

- *Meet actual community needs.*
- *Are coordinated in collaboration with the school and the community.*
- *Are integrated into the school's academic curriculum.*
- *Provide structured time for students to think, talk, and write about what was experienced during the actual service activity.*
- *Provide students with opportunities to use newly acquired academic skills and knowledge in real-life situations in their own communities.*
- *Enhance what is taught in the school by extending learning beyond the classroom.*
- *Help to foster the development of a sense of caring for others.*