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Service Learning and Related Activities in the "Improving America's Schools Act of 1994"

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**Service Learning and Related Activities in the
"Improving America's Schools Act of 1994"**

Service learning is a strategy for teaching and learning through which students can achieve high academic standards. Service learning is included as a strategy in the Improving America's Schools Act. Below is a summary of the Titles in which service learning and related strategies appear.

Title I - Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards

Part A - Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies

Subpart 1 - Basic Program Requirements

Sec. 1114. Schoolwide Programs.

Schools with 60% poverty are eligible to implement schoolwide projects in the first year after the bill's enactment; schools with 50% poverty would be eligible thereafter. A local education agency may use funds under this part, in combination with other Federal, State, and local funds, in order to upgrade the entire educational program for the school.

(B) Schoolwide reform strategies are defined as those that:

(iii) use effective instructional strategies, which may include the integration of vocational and academic learning (including applied learning and team teaching strategies),

(I) increase the amount and quality of learning time, such as providing an extended school year and before- and after- school and summer programs and opportunities ...

(iv) (I) address the needs of all children in the school, but particularly the needs of children who are members of target population of any program that is included in the Schoolwide program, which may include:

(bb) ... innovative teaching methods which may include applied learning and team teaching strategies;

Sec. 1115. Targeted Assistance Schools:

A targeted assisted school would serve children identified by the state as failing, or most at risk failing to meet the state's performance standards. Funds under this Title can be used to serve both economically and educationally disadvantaged children in targeted assistance schools.

(c) Components of a Targeted Assistance School Program:

(D) (ii) help provide an accelerated, high-quality curriculum, including applied learning;

Sec. 1117. State Assistance for School Support and Improvement.

State support: Each state educational agency shall establish a statewide system of intensive and sustained support and improvement for schools receiving funds under this part.

(1) School Support Teams:

Each state education agency is required to, in consultation with local educational agencies and schools, establish a system of school support teams to provide information and assistance to schoolwide programs and to assist such programs in providing an opportunity to all students to meet the State's student performance standards.

(c) (1) (C) Each such team shall be composed of persons, including teachers, pupil service personnel, representatives or organizations knowledgeable about successful schoolwide projects or comprehensive school reform ... and other persons who are knowledgeable about research and practice on teaching and learning, particularly about strategies for improving the educational opportunities for low achieving students (including alternative and applied learning),

Sec. 1119. Professional Development:

Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this part shall provide high-quality professional development that will improve the teaching of the academic subjects, consistent with State content standards, in order to enable all children to meet the State's student performance standards.

(b) (2) Professional Development Activities: *Optional Activities: (I)* instruction in experiential-based teaching methods such as service-learning.

Part E - Federal Evaluations, Demonstrations, and Transition Projects

Sec. 1502. Demonstrations of Innovative Practices.

(a) Demonstration Programs to Improve Achievement:

The Secretary may make grants to State educational agencies, other public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public or private partnerships involving business and industry organizations and consortia of such entities to carry out demonstration projects that show the most promise of enabling children served under this title to meet challenging State content standards and challenging State student performance standards...

(1) (F) programs that are built **upon** partnerships developed between elementary and middle schools, employers and community, which emphasize the integration high quality academic and vocational learning, stress excellence and high expectations for success in academic subjects, instill responsibility, decisionmaking, problem solving, interpersonal skills and other competencies in students, and make school relevant to the workplace and the community, through applied and interactive teaching methodologies, team teaching strategies, learning opportunities connecting school, the workplace, and the community, and career exploration, awareness, and career guidance opportunities.

Title II - Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program

Authorization for FY1995- \$800 million. 5% of funds are for Part A, 95% of the funds are for Part B.

Funds under this title provide assistance to State and local educational agencies and to institutions of higher education with teacher education programs to improve teaching and learning of all students...

Part A - Federal Activities

Sec. 2102. Authorized Activities

(c) Uses of Funds - The secretary may use funds available to carry out this part for:

(8) efforts to train teachers in innovative instructional methodologies designed to meet the diverse learning needs of individual students, including methodologies whole integrated academic and vocational learning and applied learning, interactive teaching strategies, such as service learning, experiential learning, career related education, and environmental education, that integrate real world applications into core academic subjects;

Part B - State and Local Activities

Sec. 2210. Local Allocation of Funds and Allowable Activities.

(3) *Activities:*

(N) professional development activities to train teachers in innovative instructional methodologies designed to meet the diverse learning needs of individual students, including methodologies which integrate academic and vocational learning and applied learning, interactive teaching strategies such as service learning, experiential learning, career-related education, and environmental education, that integrate real world applications into core academic subjects;

Title IV- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

Funds under this title support programs to meet the seventh National Education Goal by preventing violence in and around schools and by strengthening programs that prevent the illegal abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, involve parents, and are coordinated with related Federal, State, and community efforts and resources, through the provision of Federal assistance to States and local educational agencies; states for grants to and contracts with community-based organizations; states for development, training, technical assistance; public and private organizations to conduct training and demonstrations and evaluations; institutions of higher education to establish, operate, expand and improve programs of school drug and violence prevention.

Part A - State Grants for Drug and Violence Prevention Programs

Subpart 1. Sec. 4114. Governor's Programs

(c) Authorized Activities - Grants and contracts under the part shall be used for programs and activities such as:

(3) developing and implementing comprehensive, community -based drug and violence prevention

programs that link community resources with schools and integrate services involving education, vocational, and job skills training and placement, law enforcement, health, mental health, community service, mentoring, and other appropriate services;

(11) service-learning projects that encourage drug- and violence -free lifestyles;

Sec. 4116 Local Drug and Violence Prevention Programs

Funds are for local education agencies to adopt and carry out a comprehensive drug and violence prevention program.

(b) Authorized Activities:

(iii) activities, such as community service and service learning projects, that are designed in increase students' sense of community;

Subpart 2 - National Programs

Sec. 4121 Federal Activities:

The Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Chair of Ounce of Prevention and the Attorney General shall carry out programs to prevent illegal use of drugs and violence through programs directly or through grants with public and private nonprofit organizations and individuals, or through agreements with other Federal agencies.

The program shall include:

(10) the implementation of innovative activities such as community service projects designed to rebuild safe and healthy neighborhoods and increase students' sense of individual responsibility;

Title V - Promoting Equity

Part C -Assistance to Address School Dropout Problems

Local educational agencies may receive funds under this part to reduce the number of children who do not complete their elementary and secondary education by providing grants to local educational agencies.

Sec 5305. Authorized Activities

(3) the establishment or expansion of work study, apprentice, or internship programs;

(8) the implementation of activities which will improve student motivation and the school learning environment;

Title X - Programs of National Significance

Part A - Fund for the Improvement of Education

The Secretary is authorized to support nationally significant programs and projects to improve the quality of education, assist all students to meet the challenging State content standards and achievement of the National Education Goals. The Secretary is authorized to make grants or contracts with State and local education agencies, institutions of higher education, and other

public and private agencies, organizations and institutions.

(b) Uses of Funds

(1) (O) experiential-based learning, such as service-learning;

Sec. 10103. Partnerships in Character Education Pilot Project

The Secretary is authorized to make up to a total of ten grants annually to partnerships of State educational agencies and local educational agencies for the design and implementation of character education programs. No SEA shall receive more than \$1 million in grants and each grant shall be awarded for a period not to exceed five years. The SEA is a one-year planning period.

(d) Elements of Character: (1) In general - Applicants desiring funding under this part shall develop character education programs that incorporate the following elements of character:

(A) Caring.

(B) Civic virtue and citizenship.

(C) Justice and fairness.

(D) Respect.

(E) Responsibility.

(F) Trustworthiness.

Part B - Gifted and Talented Children

Funds under this part provide assistance to State and local education agencies, institutions of higher education, and other public and private agencies and organizations to initiate coordinated programs of research, demonstration projects, personnel training, and similar activities designed to build a nationwide capacity in elementary and secondary schools to meet the special educational needs of gifted and talented students.

Sec. 10204. Authorized Programs

(b) Uses of Funds: (4) implementing innovative strategies, such as cooperative learning, peer tutoring and service learning;

Part F- Civic Education

Sec. 10601. Instruction of the History and Principles of Democracy in the United States.

The Secretary is authorized to carry out a program to enhance the attainment of the third and sixth National Education Goals by educating students about the history and principles of the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights, and to foster civic competence and responsibility.

Sec. 10602. Instruction in Civics, Government, and the Law.

(b) Authorized Activities

(3) outside-the-classroom learning experiences for students including community service activities

* The Governors adopted resolution for Goal # 3 replaces the term "community service" with "service learning".

Part J- Urban and Rural Education Assistance

Subpart 1

Sec. 10963 Urban School Grants and Sec. 10973 Rural School Grants

The Secretary is authorized to make grants to eligible local educational agencies serving an urban/rural area or State educational agencies in the case where the State education agency is the local educational agency for activities designed to assist in local school improvement efforts and school reform, and to assist the schools of such agencies in meeting the National Education Goals.

(b) Authorized Activities:

(1) (B) tutoring, mentoring, and other activities to improve academic achievement directly; (E) efforts to improve problem-solving and higher-order thinking skills;

(F) programs to increase student motivation for learning;

(3) strategies to increase the graduation rates of urban/rural public school students to at least the national average, such as:

(E) collaborative activities between schools, parents, community groups, agencies, and institutions of higher education aimed at preventing individuals from dropping out of school;

(4) strategies to prepare urban/rural public school students to enter higher education, pursue careers, and exercise their responsibilities as citizens, such as:

(E) activities designed to promote community service and volunteerism among students, parents, teachers, and the community; and

(F) civic education and other programs designed to enhance responsible citizenship and understanding of the political process.