21st Century Community Learning Centers
Pre-Proposal Meeting

Character Education and Service-Learning

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

Soaring Beyond Expectations
21st Century Community Learning Center
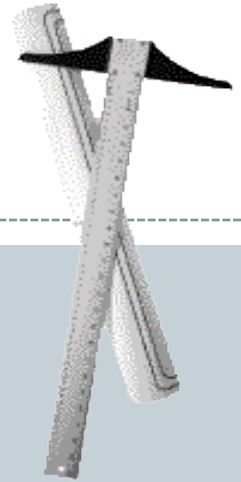Maryland State Department of Education

Objectives of this Presentation

- **To understand the what, why, and how of Character Education**

- **To understand the what, why, and how of Service-Learning in Maryland**

Create your character education initiative from your after school program's needs

- What are the **needs** of your after-school program that your character education initiative is trying to address?

- Are these needs based on **data**?

What is character education?

"Character education is the deliberate effort to cultivate virtue."

--Thomas Lickona

Character Matters (p. xxv)

The HOW of Character Education

- Refer to the resource

Character Education by Design: A Blueprint for Successful District and School Initiatives

- All adults model good character.
- The core of the character education initiative focuses on building positive relationships.
- Character education is connected to the curriculum.
- Character education efforts are visible.
- Partnerships support the character education effort.

Character and Academics

"School records of character-based schools show consistent improvement in student achievement and behavior."

--Julea Posey and Matthew Davidson, *Character Education Toolkit* (p.121)
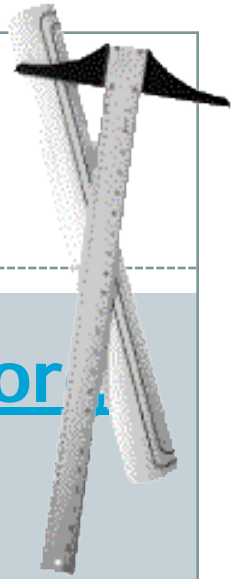
Why character education?

"There is increasing evidence that students who attend schools who emphasize character are more socially competent, are less likely to engage in violence-related problem behaviors and are more academically engaged and successful."

Maurice J. Elias, Mary Utne O'Brien, Roger P. Weissberg

What are your 21st CCLC's program's Character Traits?

- Build your character education initiative with your school partner
- Create your character education initiative based on the needs of your program

- Available from **www.marylandpublicschools.org**

- **Character Education by Design**
- "Growing Character, Cultivating Achievement"
- Research Publications
- **Character Matters** Newsletters

Definition of Service-Learning

- Service-learning links academic learning with student service that benefits the community.

- Service projects must include academic preparation, service activities, and structured reflection.

What is Service-Learning

- Service-learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning.

- Students improve their academic skills by applying what they learn in school to the real world; they then reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning. *Learning in Deed*

COMAR Regulation 13A.03.02.06

Students shall complete one of the following:

- 75 hours of student service that includes preparation, action, and reflection components and that, at the discretion of the local school system, may begin during the middle grades; or

- A locally designed program of student service that has been approved by the State Superintendent of Schools.

- **(Check your local school district's Service-Learning plan.)**

The **Seven Best Practices**
of Service-Learning

1. Meet a recognized need in the community
2. Achieve curricular objectives through Service-Learning
3. Reflect throughout the service-learning experience
4. Develop student responsibility
5. Establish community partnerships
6. Plan ahead for Service-Learning
7. Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service

Direct Service
Tutoring, Mentoring, Visiting the Elderly

Students Learn:

- To be responsible for their own actions
- To be dependable
- To make a difference in another person's life
- To solve problems
- To care for another person

- To focus on the needs of others, and put one's own problems in context
- To get along with people different from one's self

Indirect Service
Drives, Collections, Fund Raisers, Clean Ups, Construction, Environmental

Students Learn:

- To work in a team and cooperate
- To play different roles in a group
- To take pride in an accomplishment
- To organize people to get a job done

- To involve others (recruit them to help)
- To perform project specific skills
- To value working with others to solve problems

Advocacy
Lobbying, Speaking, Performing

Students Learn:

- To persevere
- To articulate a concern and suggest solutions
- To persuade people to act in a new way
- To understand relationships among issues

- To appreciate the duties and privileges of citizenship
- To appreciate the political process

Reflection

- To explore the impact and importance of citizen service to the community

- To understand how to learn from experience

- To develop a language of caring and commitment

- To instill habits of participation as an expectation of citizenship

Resources

- MSDE's Website at www.mdservice-learning.org

- MSDE Materials (*Service-Learning Guidelines, Interdisciplinary Webs, 7 Best Practice Guide…*)

- The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse at 1-800-808-Serve