



COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



What is Community-Based Learning?

Community-Based Learning (CBL) is a partnership-driven approach to teaching and learning that allows educators to invite outside partners to engage in classroom projects and inquiry-based learning opportunities. It connects student learning to real community needs while honoring community expertise, history, and lived experience.

It values what students already know from their home, culture, and life experiences and adds real-world learning opportunities for deeper knowledge.

What Does it Look Like?

School board members foster partnerships between schools and the community and promote learning that connects students with local organizations, businesses, and civic leaders through authentic experiences. Board members support initiatives that strengthen collaborative decision-making, community partnerships, and opportunities that prepare students for college, career, and civic life.

What Are the Benefits?

- Increased student engagement, attendance, and deeper cognitive demand.
- Builds stronger relationships between schools and community partners, including parents as experts.
- Creates a pipeline of informed, engaged, and civically minded young people that amplifies community voice and expertise.
- Supports sustainable, reciprocal partnerships rather than one-time engagements.

How Can I Get Involved?

- Share your story, expertise, or work with a classroom. Support your district leaders in preparing teachers, students, and families to engage in Community-Based Learning.
- Connect with the schools you serve to support their community-partnered lessons.
- Clarify what support you can offer (ex: time, knowledge, space, or resources).
- Advocate for the flexibility needed to implement this type of learning.
- Build a [CommunityShare](#) profile today using this QR code →

