



COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

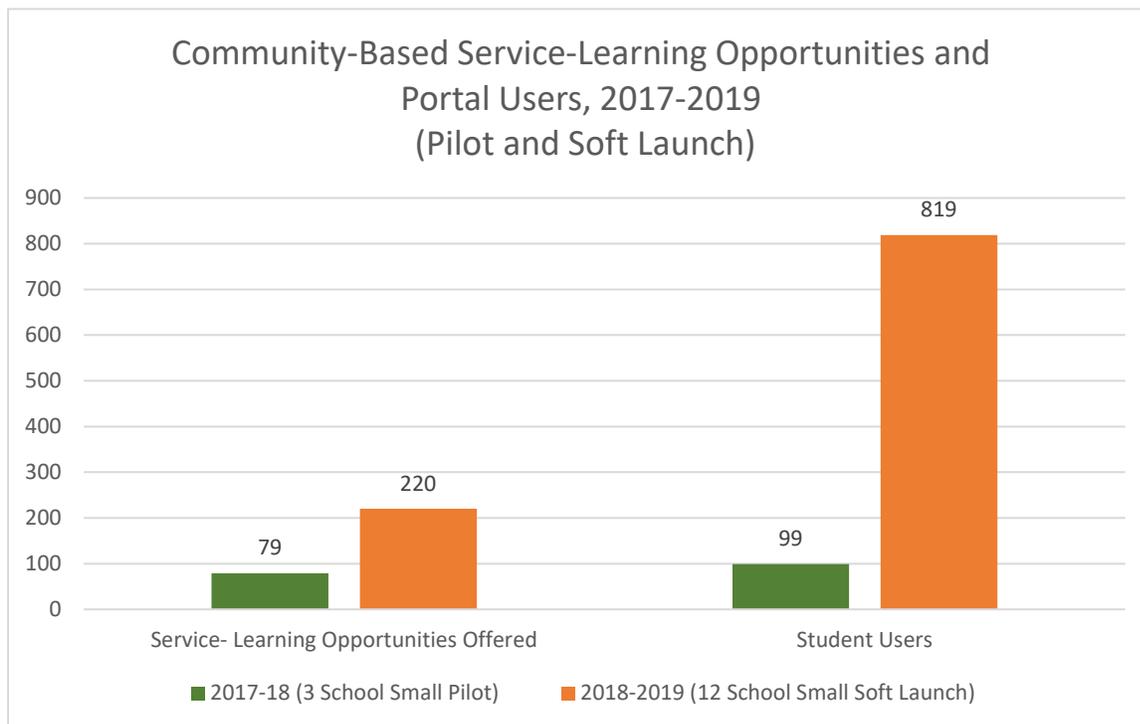
Accomplishment related to Values #1-2, Indicator #16

The Office of Service-Learning & Mentorships (SLM) supports the AACPS 2018-23 Strategic Plan by facilitating community-based service-learning opportunities for students and families. Students who engage in community-based service experiences not only better their world, they also better themselves. These students cement what they are learning in the classroom with authentic community experiences that foster empathy, emphasize civic readiness, and often provide applied project experience that is admired by colleges admissions teams and coveted by potential employers.

To support an increase of community-based service-learning opportunities, The Office of SLM designed a Service-Learning Portal, ServeAACPS.org, that provides a platform for community partners to post service opportunities and allows high school student users to search and register for these opportunities based upon interest, proximity to school, and time commitment. The portal also allows students to track their community-based service engagement within school clubs and teams. Moreover, the Portal's "Service-Learning Resume" feature records all community-based service experiences, for all student users, from grades 9 to 12. While the community based service-learning opportunities posted in the portal do not take the place of the curriculum based service-learning projects that students must complete as a part of the MSDE graduation requirement, they do foster "above and beyond" service experiences that make students eligible for district-wide recognition and offer them a novel layer of ownership over their learning.

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To launch the Service-Learning Portal, a three-school pilot was conducted in the 2017-2018 school year and a soft launch targeting specific high school programs and clubs was conducted in the 2018-2019 school year. In the 2019-2020 school year, every high school student in AACPS will be able to create a Service-Learning portal account and take advantage of the features it offers!



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