



Michigan Social Studies-related Highlights

Learning to Give has hundreds of teacher-written, standards-aligned lesson plans and other resources that empower students with knowledge and skills of voluntary action and civic engagement. We've picked out some favorites and new products to help get you started!

1. Consider doing the [teacher mini-course on service-learning](#), a four-section short course that might also be eligible for continuing education credit. Under the Get Started tab, click Professional Development. This course, and many others, are free and ready to use.
2. This [service-learning toolkit](#) guides you in planning that begins with a Learning to Give lesson and adds community resources, depth of knowledge, and student voice. It follows the format of “What? So What? and Now What?” Students are involved in real community issues, writing for a purpose, critical thinking, and problem solving.
3. Introduce your students to philanthropy via four short and visually interesting videos including:
 - Philanthropy and Service learning: Why Do They matter?
 - Connecting Skills and Interests to Community Needs
 - Understanding Advocacy and Action
 - Stages of Service-Learning
 - [Find the whiteboard videos](#) on our Get Started page or on our [YouTube whiteboard videos playlist](#)
 - Check out our other [YouTube videos](#) including lesson support, teacher interviews, and more
4. Navigate to a unit! Here are [intro to philanthropy units tailored to each grade level](#) including K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.
5. Guide your students through the “[Blue Sky Envisioning Activity](#)” to identify a few issues and goals. This helps your students identify what they care about. Equally important, you'll get to know them better. Type “Blue Sky” into the lesson search.

The Learning to Give website contains a multitude of lesson plans and other resources focused on social studies content. **The more specific your search criteria input, the better!**

Here are a few “leads.”

- This short intro lesson to **civil rights and social movements** includes a 4-minute video overview of modern social justice movements.
 - <https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/philanthropy-through-social-activism>
- This **justice-related toolkit** includes tools to help teach advocacy skills and links to local and national resources organizations.
 - <https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/justice-related-service-learning-toolkit>
- Students love **current events**. Incorporate these resources to help grow informed, responsible and generous students:
 - <https://www.learningtogive.org/teach/current-events>
- Utilize Toolkits on **social studies content** topics via the “**Issue Areas**” page found **under the Teach tab**, including refugees, civic participation, honoring veterans, global issues, hunger and homelessness.
- Find focused resources on **Detroit and urban philanthropy** under the Teach tab.
 - <https://www.learningtogive.org/teach/detroit-and-urban-philanthropy>
- **Search by standard!** Simply plug in “Michigan,” the grade level, and “Social Studies” to find lesson plans that are aligned with that grade levels’ standards.
- Learning to Give has **mini-grants** to help with service-learning costs like supplies, books, and travel. The application is easy, and the awards range from \$250-1,000. Find the mini-grants **application under the Get Started tab**.
<https://www.learningtogive.org/get-started/mini-grants-service-learning>

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Give more

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