

# Designing Different Types of FLEx



**Direct:** Learners engage in real work that directly addresses and affects the real needs of real people.

## Examples:

- After studying water quality, fish habitats, & trout life cycles, students work to eradicate invasive species and launch new trout to a local stream.
- English students partner with a local organization that supports people experiencing homelessness; students develop content for the organization to use on their website, app, printed materials, etc.
- Science students apply their knowledge to create laundry soap for a local food pantry.

## Idea Catcher:

**Indirect:** Learners undertake real work, alongside an expert or stakeholder, that indirectly impacts the real needs of real people.

## Examples:

- As part of their study of economics, data, and money, primary students host a bake sale and donate the profits to a local organization.
- Art students cultivate a relationship with a local foster and adoption agency and create art to decorate and renovate the office space.
- Elementary students studying leadership write letters of appreciation to leaders in their own lives.

## Idea Catcher:

**Advocacy:** Learners partner with experts and stakeholders to do real work that highlights and encourages others in the community to meet the real needs of real people.

## Examples:

- Biology students investigate how genes impact human traits and how genetic conditions impact development. Students develop an awareness campaign by inviting others to share their stories through various forms of media.
- Primary students practice literacy skills by researching and creating restaurant reviews to be published in their local newspaper for restaurants affected by changes in the economic climate.
- Intermediate students researching human body systems interview a spokesperson for an organization specializing in organ donation. Students create a PSA to advocate for organ donation.

## Idea Catcher:

**Research and Educate:** Learners do real work, seeking input from experts and stakeholders, to understand and educate others on the real needs of real people.



**Examples:**

- Chemistry students research solutions commonly found under the kitchen sink and create an informational pamphlet to educate others on chemicals that could be harmful and to offer safer alternatives.
- Algebra 2 students study the impact of high-interest loans and design infographics, presentations, or PSAs to share their learning.
- Intermediate students research and create presentations about leaders of effective, positive change. Students share how they will follow the example set by the leader, with a call to action for their audience to be leaders of positive change in their community.

**Idea Catcher:**

**Celebrate and Share:** Learners broaden the scope and impact of their learning by sharing their real work to meet the real needs of real people with their community and beyond.

**Examples:**

- Students studying organ donation invite their whole school to celebrate Organ Donor awareness day.
- PE students partner with a non-profit organization to host a fun-run that celebrates and highlights the real people, real needs, and real work of the non-profit organization.
- High school students in a public speaking class interview alumni of their school and prepare their recorded interviews to be used as part of a celebration of the school's 60th anniversary.

**Idea Catcher:**

**Build Relationships:** Learners build relationships with real people in their community to better understand real needs and participate in ongoing real work.

**Examples:**

- High school choir students invite people from the broader community to perform with them (retirement group, people with special needs, people from racial and ethnic minority groups, etc.).
- Spanish students regularly visit a local public school to support students in the Spanish/English bilingual program. Students act as "lunch buddies," participate in games during recess, and practice conversations in Spanish.
- Intermediate students learning about immigration invite refugees who have newly arrived in their community to visit their school and share a meal.

**Idea Catcher:**

