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Mapping Omaha: A Geographic Assessment of the Service Learning P-16 Initiative

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What is Service Learning?
Service Learning is a method of teaching that combines classroom instruction with meaningful community service. This form of learning emphasizes critical thinking and personal reflection while encouraging a heightened sense of community, civic engagement, and personal responsibility.

The P-16 Initiative
The University of Nebraska Omaha created the P-16 Initiative to specifically address poverty and its residual effects such as: educational achievement gaps, high dropout rates, disengaged youth, and high truancy rates. The P-16 Initiative was created to serve the Omaha community, focusing on schools where 75% of families attending are below the poverty line (Dierberger, 2015). The P-16 Initiative aims at connecting Preschool-12th grade and UNO curriculum through the development of collaborative academic service learning experiences.

2015-2016 Academic Year P-16 Schools
The UNO Service Learning Academy works with a number of schools throughout the Omaha metro area. Thirty-four schools worked with P-16 service learning projects during the 2015-2016 academic year. The schools are categorized by type in the bar graph below.

P-16 service learning projects are mostly occurring at the high school level
There were 34 schools participating in P-16 service learning projects for the 2015-2016 academic year. The "Other" category was made up of one school that is an accelerated program, and three pre-kindergarten through eighth grade schools.

References