Social Change Across the Curriculum

English/Language Arts

- Read a biography or autobiography about a person who has worked for social change
- Compare newspaper editorials to learn about methods and styles used to persuade public opinion
- Discuss and write an essay on how young people experience stereotyping and prejudice

Social Studies/History

- Study how each branch of state and federal government directly impacts the life of your community
- Read about Cesar Chavez and the migrant farm worker movement; research current migrant worker issues in your area
- Learn how voting rights were won by suffragettes, during the Civil Rights movement, and in the aftermath of South Africa's apartheid era

Languages

- Create public service videos in different languages about the school or local government
- Learn about opportunities to serve in other countries, including the Peace Corps
- Study the needs and challenges of refugees being resettled in the United States, including language and prejudice

Theater, Music, & Visual Arts

- Adapt literature about social change for a reader's theater performance
- Find out about the social and political impact of folk music and how it has inspired people to take action
- Examine murals as expressions of public opinion; include graffiti art in the research

Social Change

Math

- Create a public opinion poll regarding an issue in the community; survey, tabulate, and report student responses
- Write biographies of famous mathematicians and the impact of their work for society
- Examine the cost and benefits of fund-raising events that aid the community; develop ideas to cut costs and keep records

Physical Education

- Study Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, which bans sex discrimination in schools and especially impacts school athletics
- Research playground safety and visit a local public playground; document any needed changes and make recommendations for improvement to the appropriate local government agencies
- Research how physical challenges such as walk-a-thons are designed to engage the community and also benefit social causes

Computer

- Ask local community agencies, such as shelters, meals-on-wheels, or immigrant centers how students can help with computer technology needs
- Create a database of agencies that need assistance through Public Achievement or a database of project ideas and student skills that community agencies can access
- Through the Internet, research careers in public service; create a Web page with links to other service agencies and organizations in your community

Science

- Find out how economics impact decisions on environmental issues such as waste disposal, incinerator placement, and toxic site cleanups
- Research community needs of people in low-income housing for safety equipment such as smoke alarms or earthquake emergency kits
- Learn about the connection between science and public relations by researching how social marketing campaigns are used to educate communities about health issues