



ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION

The PORTAL Project  
*Partnership Opportunities for Real-World Teaching and Learning*  
*presents*

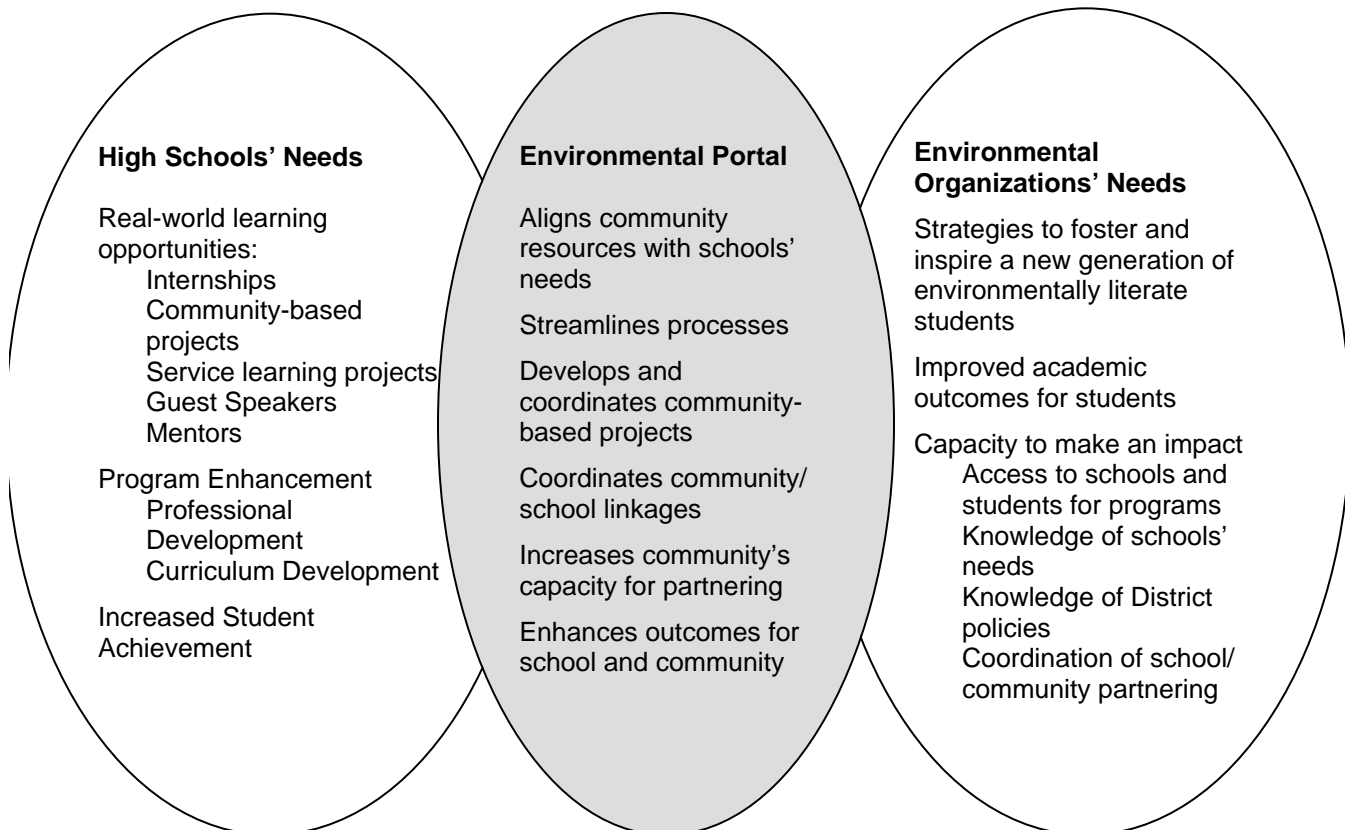
## The Environmental Portal

### What is it?

The Environmental Portal is a partnership of individuals and organizations ~ including educators, businesses, government and non-profit agencies ~ that are passionate about the environment and committed to providing students with tangible and diverse opportunities to integrate real-world learning about the environment into their school curriculum.

### What does it do?

The Environmental Portal creates authentic partnerships between schools and the environmental community, aligning their mutual needs and interests, establishing and implementing a range of real-world learning opportunities for students and teachers, coordinating the use of available resources, and fostering the high quality collaboration among all stakeholders that results in increased student interest and enhanced student achievement.



## What are the goals and objectives of Portal?

### Goal for Environmental Portal

As a result of intentional community-wide collaboration, Seattle Public School graduates are environmentally literate, and an increasingly diverse group of graduates consider employment and/or continued study in the environmental sciences and related fields.

### Common Objectives for All Portals

- Connect the community directly with high school transformation in a way that is mutually beneficial to schools and organizations
- Increase community capacity to provide community based learning (CBL) opportunities
- Increase school capacity to prepare students for CBL experience
- Create authentic, sustainable partnerships between the community and schools (with a particular focus on small learning communities).

## What do students, teachers, and community members say about real-world learning opportunities and PORTAL?

*"Before my internship, I wanted to be a baker. I wasn't planning on going to college, and I was going to jump right into the baking industry when I turned eighteen. I learned that I have higher goals in life. I now realize that the world is a bigger place than I once knew. I want to go into a science field now, instead of being a baker. College is definitely on my list in the future, something I couldn't have said last year. I also want to learn something in my classes. That is something that I haven't felt in a long time."* Ballard Biotech student

*"It is evident that Cleveland effectively prepares its students for work in a professional environment . . . We applaud your efforts and look forward to working with you again next year."* Seattle Public Utilities

*"I was able to apply the skills and knowledge I learned in academy courses in school to my internship."* Cleveland High School Student

*"The kids learned the biology/ecology of the replacement species...They developed a resource guide that indicated what the plants needed to survive--primarily shade tolerance, moisture conditions, and what the plant might offer the site--habitat, soil holding capacity, aesthetic and cultural values, and height. The students designed plans for the site, taking into account spacing, growth requirements, and effects on other plants. The plans were taken to Mithun Architects and presented to a panel of judges. Over time, components of two plans were chosen. Representatives from those two groups fine tuned their plans and then early in the spring they were actually planted."* West Seattle Teacher, describing an integrated service learning project at the Hamilton View Point

*PORTAL is a collaborative project of the Alliance for Education and Seattle Public Schools. PORTAL provides a vehicle through which Seattle's education and employer communities can partner to promote student achievement through real-world learning opportunities for all students.*