

Building Business and Community

Partnerships for Learning

...In the Classroom

Focus of Improvement	What Can Partners Do?		
	Funds	Human and Material Resources	Advocacy
CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT	<p>Support curriculum improvement projects that focus on core subjects</p> <p>Provide challenge grants to help redesign schools for use of technology</p> <p>Link schools and classrooms with hands-on learning opportunities in the community and businesses</p>	<p>Train teachers and students on computers and use of technology</p> <p>Speak to classes on applications of subject-area skills in the "real world"</p> <p>Provide equipment and supplementary classroom materials or ideas</p> <p>Combine school-based learning with a work-based experience</p>	<p>Support efforts to connect parents and teachers</p> <p>Establish challenging student learning standards</p> <p>Advocate high standards of teaching and learning</p> <p>Advise on reallocation of funds to support improvements in curriculum and instruction</p>
ENHANCING TEACHER EFFICACY	<p>Support teacher summer institutes and/or graduate courses in subject areas</p> <p>Fund teacher visits to model schools</p> <p>Provide mini-grants to promote teacher innovation</p> <p>Support teacher networks and forums</p>	<p>Invite teachers into organization for industry- based experiences</p> <p>Be an additional resource/mentor for teachers</p> <p>Provide equipment and supplies for teachers (telephones, voice mail, computers, paper, etc.)</p> <p>Provide ongoing support for staff development</p> <p>Provide teacher centers</p>	<p>Support teachers seeking National Board Certification</p> <p>Advocate strengthening of teacher education programs in colleges and universities</p> <p>Advocate more time for teachers to engage in quality professional development</p>
MOTIVATING STUDENTS FOR LEARNING	<p>Fund and develop after-school programs in core subject areas</p> <p>Provide scholarships and recognition for academic success</p> <p>Provide work-based experience tied to academics</p>	<p>Mentor students in career possibilities and future opportunities</p> <p>Tutor students in core subject areas to reach high achievement standards</p> <p>Provide classroom tools such as computers, networking technology, multimedia resources, and calculators</p> <p>Help schools establish home use of computers linked to schools</p>	<p>Support financial aid for college</p> <p>Advocate funding for early childhood programs</p> <p>Support student learning standards</p> <p>Advocate funding for smaller class size and school reform</p>

...In the School

Focus of Improvement	What Can Partners Do?		
	Funds	Human and Material Resources	Advocacy
SCHOOL MISSION	Host retreats to define school mission and goals for student learning	Facilitate regularly scheduled workshops for parents, educators and community Provide consultants, books, videos, and other resources Participate in school restructuring/ improvement	Clarify business expectations and skills for future employees Support establishment of school mission/vision Promote high standards of learning and achievement
LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE	Sponsor summer institutes and leadership development programs Support follow-up workshops, activities, and networks	Work with staff in defining mission and goals, developing strategic and implementation plans Provide consultants and advisors to administrators and teachers Provide mentoring and shadowing	Support school leaders at school and at school board meetings Advocate accountability of school leaders for high student achievement Support funding for leadership identification and development for principals and parent leader
MANAGING CHANGE	Sponsor management training workshops for teachers and administrators Provide implementation and incentive grants for school-based management reforms Fund site visits for teachers and administrators to reforming schools	Provide on-site consultants and advisors to help faculty, staff, and administrators develop new management styles Facilitate development of self-evaluation tools to assess progress Help involve and inform parents and the community of reform goals, strategies and student learning Use satellite networks/technology to disseminate information to other school leaders	Support establishment of leadership and management training for school leaders Advocate school-based decision making Advocate school-based control of funding and budget

...In the District

Focus of Improvement	What Can Partners Do?		
	Funds	Human and Material Resources	Advocacy
SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL-BASED RESTRUCTURING	<p>Host board retreats to develop district improvement plan</p> <p>Help establish focused staff development program</p>	<p>Provide consultants to work with district and school leaders</p> <p>Serve on superintendent's reform advisory boards as well as school councils</p> <p>Help organize the district's and school's financial records to clearly identify the costs of education by function, grade level, programs, and schools</p>	<p>Support funding for leadership development and team building for district staff, school board, and parent community leaders</p> <p>Support school board policies designed to institutionalize improvement</p>
STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY	<p>Support comparative studies and visits with other districts</p> <p>Help establish continuous improvement processes to assess student performance against high achievement standards</p>	<p>Consult, advise, and help set up data collection and analysis systems to track student success on the job and in college</p> <p>Help district analyze individual school needs in implementing reforms</p>	<p>Advocate school, district, and school board accountability linked with financial and technical support</p>
SETTING UP COMMUNICATION AND RESOURCE NETWORKS	<p>Survey businesses, colleges, faculty, staff, students, and parents about needs and successess</p> <p>Help establish district wide resource networks</p>	<p>Help develop communication plans within districts, between and within schools and families, and with the general public</p> <p>Provide necessary equipment and technical support for various communication strategies -- telephones, copy machines, faxes, modems, e-mail, Internet</p> <p>Run for or support good candidates for your local school board or committee</p>	<p>Encourage broad communication with public in setting goals and strategies for school improvement</p>

Note: The items listed in this chart are not meant to be inclusive, but rather a starting point for the unique needs, resources, and goals of each community.

...In the Community

Focus of Improvement	What Can Partners Do?		
	Funds	Human and Material Resources	Advocacy
BUILDING A CONSENSUS FOR REFORM	<p>Sponsor forums and town meetings to discuss education issues</p> <p>Run ad campaigns for better schools</p> <p>Sponsor special educational supplements in newspapers to tell people how they can be involved</p>	<p>Canvass community to identify educational needs and priorities</p> <p>Establish community wide coalitions for education</p> <p>Identify and develop parent, community, and educational leaders</p>	<p>Recruit other community leaders to participate in school partnerships</p> <p>Advocate funding for needed school improvements and changes</p>
CONNECTING FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS	<p>Host functions to create bonds between schools and families</p> <p>Support programs which encourage families to become involved in education</p>	<p>Advise employee-parents on ways to support learning</p> <p>Help create family resource centers</p> <p>Help schools develop creative ways to communicate and collaborate with families</p>	<p>Advocate family-centered policies -- flex time and time off to volunteer in schools</p> <p>Promote family involvement in education</p>
LINKING THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES	<p>Support programs to train parents as child's first teacher</p> <p>Provide incentive and recognition grants to encourage agency cooperation</p> <p>Support community-based centers for child care, teenagers, adult literacy, cultural and arts development</p>	<p>Help develop volunteer and community service programs for students</p> <p>Serve as mentors for students who need extra help (drug, gang violence prevention, etc.)</p> <p>Institute preschool and day care centers at or near school sites</p>	<p>Promote close ties between community resources and schools to help children and families</p> <p>Lobby for funding for early childhood, school reform, and after-school programs</p>

...In the Policy Arena

Focus of Improvement	What Can Partners Do?		
	Funds	Human and Material Resources	Advocacy
FOCUSING ON IMPROVED STUDENT PERFORMANCE	<p>Provide incentive grants for implementing school improvement plans</p> <p>Reward schools making the most progress</p>	<p>Help schools and districts develop implementation plans that focus on better achievement</p> <p>Link partnership programs to results-oriented reform strategies to increase success in college and/or on the job</p>	<p>Support accompanying legislation and state funding for reform</p> <p>Advocate for higher standards for all students</p>
REASSESSING RULES AND REGULATIONS	<p>Fund research on effective implementation of reform</p>	<p>Help school councils identify regulations that hinder change and "run interference" for them at district and state levels</p>	<p>Lobby for legislative changes to shift from regulation focus to school-based efforts and better achievement</p>
ENSURING ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Fund an assessment of needs to upgrade teaching</p> <p>Provide matching funds for repairs or upgrade facilities for using technology</p> <p>Help schools meet matching fund requirements for state technology</p> <p>Provide funds to link after-school programs in the community</p>	<p>Volunteer time to rewire, repair, and rebuild classrooms and schools</p> <p>Manage volunteer and mentoring programs</p> <p>Help communicate need to link community and school resources for children</p> <p>Provide educational technology and distance learning capability</p>	<p>Advocate and lobby for tax levies earmarked for improvements, reform, and better teacher training</p> <p>Support incentives to offer after-school and summer programs linked to enrichment</p> <p>Lobby legislature for technology allocations</p>

This material was adapted from *Sustaining Change in Schools: A Role for Business*. (New York: Council for Aid to Education, 1994).