
BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP-READY SCHOOL: GUIDING QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help **principals and school leadership teams** reflect on their readiness to partner and the current partnership climate at their school. Review and discuss the questions below with your team before entering into a partnership, or periodically to evaluate your existing partnership practices. Pay attention to areas that need clarification or further development. At the end of this discussion, you should be clear on why and how partnerships fit into your school's operations.

THE RATIONALE: WHY PARTNERSHIPS?

- Why are we investing in partnerships? Why are they important to our school community?
- What is the mission/vision of our school and how can partners help us achieve that mission/vision?
- What are our school's priorities and goals? How can external partners contribute to their achievement?

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF PARTNERSHIPS AT OUR SCHOOL?

- What partners are already in the school?
- Currently, how are partnerships going at our school? What are the strengths of these partnerships and what are the challenges?

WHAT OPERATIONAL STRUCTURES CAN WE BUILD TO SUPPORT THIS WORK?

- Do we have a central point of contact for community partners at our school?
- Who are the people in our school who are best positioned to work with partners?

- What kind of capacity, time, and resources can our school dedicate to partnerships (e.g. expertise, professional development, space, equipment, data analysis)?
- How could we grow our capacity to support partnerships with community organizations?

HOW DO WE CREATE A SCHOOL CULTURE THAT PROMOTES PARTNERSHIPS?

- What can the school offer to make sure that each partnership is a good one?
- What are our assumptions of what a partner should do in the school or how a partner should act? How can we communicate this?
- What must we have in a partnership to make it worthwhile?
- Is our principal and/or leadership team willing to commit to working on the three elements of a partnership ecosystem: shared vision and leadership; aligned, responsive implementation; and shared accountability for success?

ADDITIONAL NOTES: