

# Reflection on a Human-Centered Approach to Partnership<sup>1</sup>

## for Best Starts for Kids Expanded Learning Place-Based Collaboratives

### Purpose of this tool:

How you work together with your partners - the way you connect and communicate as people - will impact the outcomes of your Collaborative as much as the activities and services you provide. Watch this 32-minute [Out of School Time Place Based Partnership Highlight](#) video to hear two providers reflect on their human-centered approach to partnership, and then reflect with your partners on your approach to collaboration.

Whether you're new to engaging in partnership or have been working together for a long time, this reflection tool is designed to offer you an opportunity to establish, renew, or develop shared practices that center relationships.

### Part I: Watch this Video

YDEKC/SOWA Quick Connections 8: Out of School Time Place Based Partnership Highlight:

This webinar is Part VIII in a Series of Quick Connections videos highlighting strategies and tools to build and strengthen school-community partnerships, co-sponsored by School's Out Washington and YDEKC. We were in conversation with Monica Haugen of Seattle Parks and Recreation and Shana Beckwith of STEMPaths Innovation Network (SPIN), who are partners in a Best Starts for Kids Out-of-School Time Collaborative at Northgate Elementary in Seattle Public Schools. We spoke with them about some of the day-to-day practices that support their multi-sector partnership.

Watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TzGTfDYVak>

### Part II: Reflect on the following questions with your partners.

#### ALIGNMENT OF GOALS, VALUES, & VISION

- What values and goals do we share with our partners, and who has been at the table in the development of our vision?

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted in collaboration with School's Out Washington, from PSESD, Best Starts for Kids: Exploring Equitable School Partnerships, Year 1 Final Report, Interview Protocol for Awardees and Partners Working in Schools, Retrieved from <https://strategy.psesd.org/current-evaluation-projects/best-starts-for-kids>.

- How does our program and partnership align with the vision and goals for the Best Starts for Kids Expanded Learning Place-Based Collaboratives Initiative? If it doesn't fully align with the Initiative, what modifications could we make while retaining our alignment as partners?

## **EQUITY**

- What issues of equity is your partnership working on and how? (Such as: power dynamics, how the partnership addresses differences in access for youth and families furthest from opportunities, how families and youth are engaged in the partnership, groups or areas that may be overlooked, or other equity issues you have observed or experienced.)

## **LEADERSHIP**

- How will leadership function within the partnership?
- How will the lead organization and partners collaborate to support trust-building, attend to power dynamics, create opportunities for shared power, and ensure that those who are less willing or able to speak up or be involved are included and valued?

## **COORDINATION**

- How would you describe coordination across organizations that are part of this partnership? (Such as: alignment across organizations, communication, decision-making, using data to inform your work, and how the partnership contributes to synergy or the idea that the "whole" of the partnership or collaboration is greater than the sum of its parts.)

## **NAVIGATING CONFLICT**

- What challenges or conflicts have you encountered so far as partners (e.g. shifts in environment, crises, turnover in leadership, power dynamics), and how have you navigated them?
- What expectations and processes do you have, or will you put in place, to give and receive feedback, work through conflict, and meet needs for repair?