



National Service Training Conference ATLANTIC



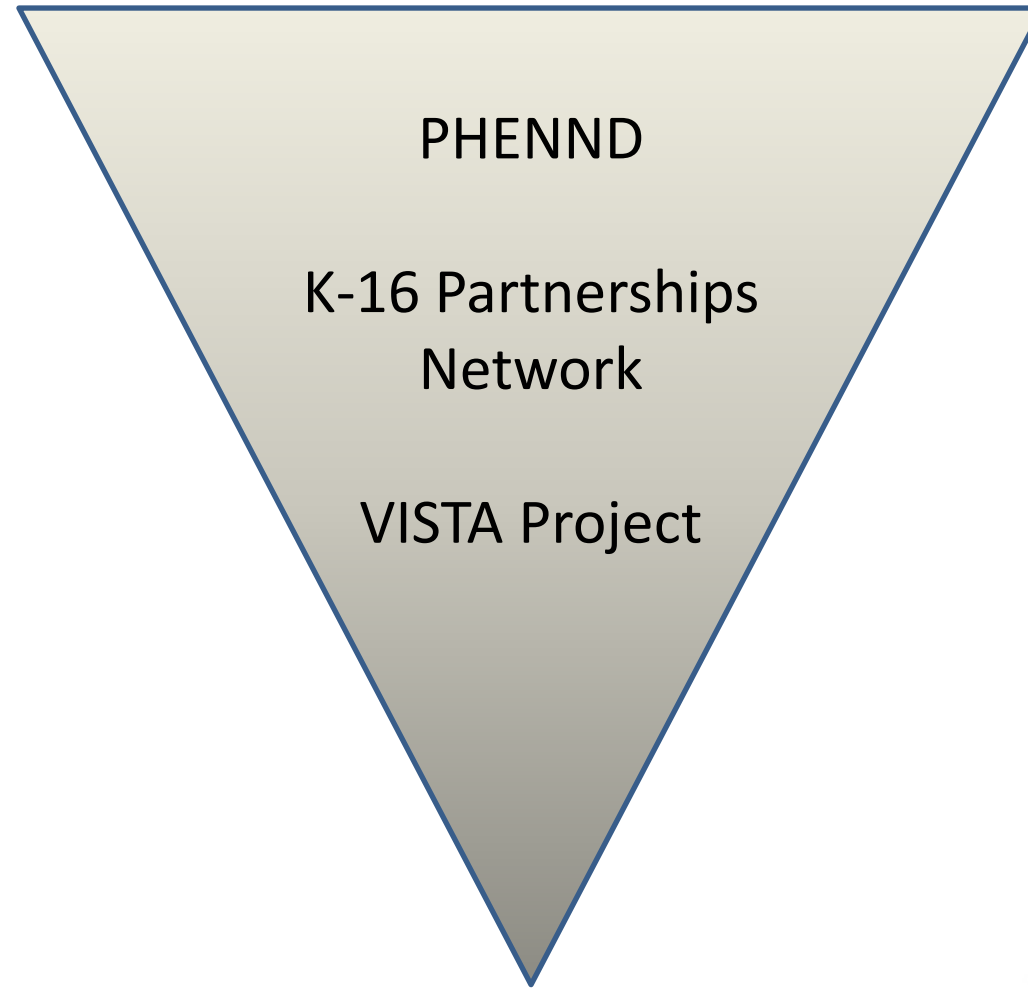
Partnering for Student Success: A Practical Guide for Building Effective School-Based Partnerships

Sarah Costelloe, Abt Associates

Hillary Kane, Philadelphia Higher Education Network for
Neighborhood Development



- The Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) is a consortium of over 30 colleges and universities in the greater Philadelphia area. PHENND works to build the capacity of its member institutions to develop mutually beneficial, sustained, and democratic community-based service-learning partnerships. The consortium actively seeks to **revitalize local communities and schools** and foster civic responsibility among the region's colleges and universities.



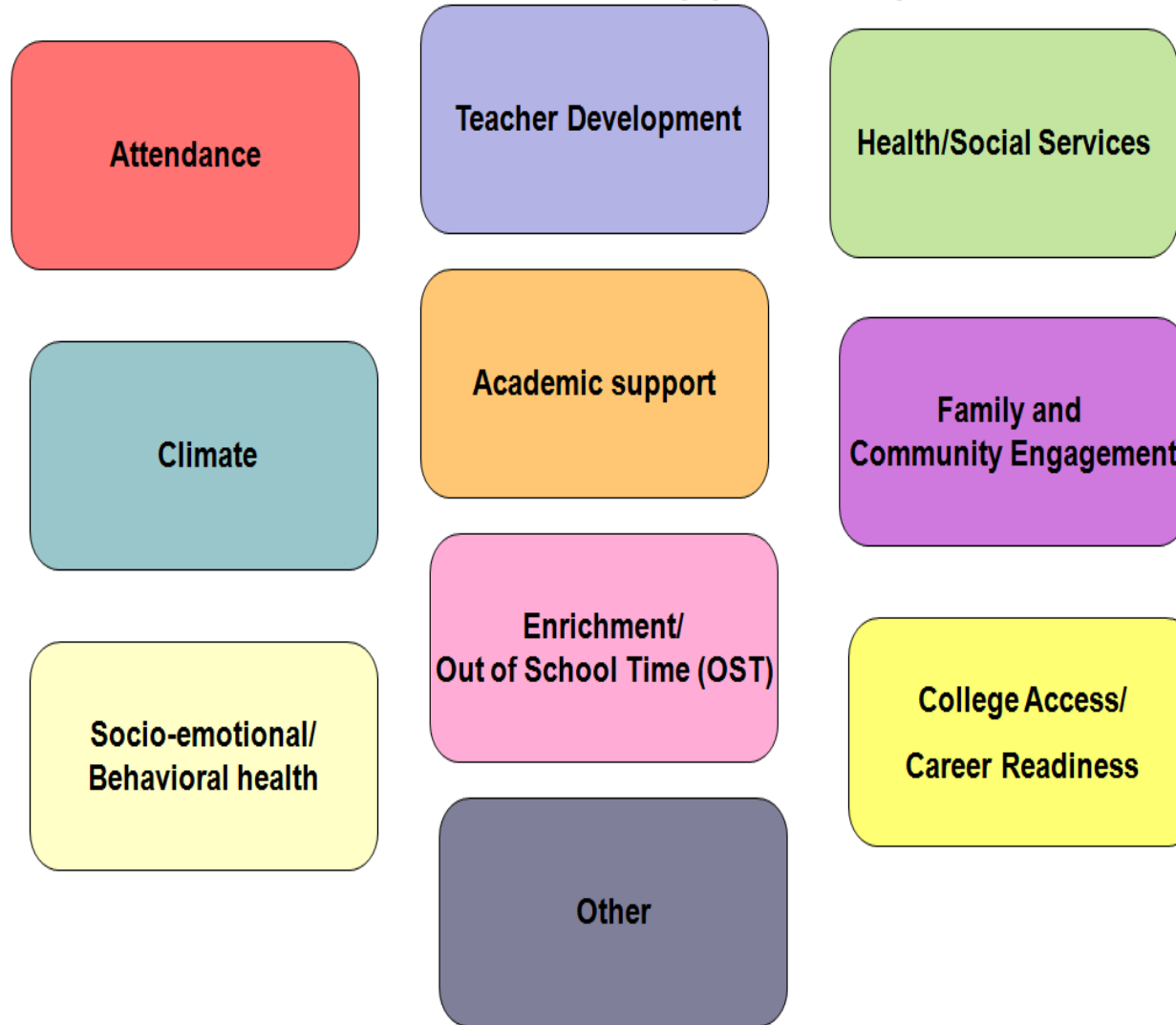
VISTA Role

The VISTA builds capacity of schools in **four major areas** through specific activities:

- **Documentation and Needs Assessment**
- **Communication and Relationship Building**
- **Strategic Planning**
- **Evaluation**



Buckets for community partnerships



Community Partner Inventory Log



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
Services Provided	Community Partner	Name of Program	Program Contact	Contact Phone	Contact E-mail	Description of Services	Target Grades	# of S
Enrichment/ OST	Teen Cafe/Parent Cafe	APM	Marybliz Ballestros	Main : (267) 234-7534 Cell: (267) 973-0031	marybliz.ballestros@apmphila.org	Dinner Night for parents to openly speak about concerns and opinions about their lives and the community they live in	9th-12th	
	Norris Square Neighborhood Project	Norris Square Neighborhood Project	Justin Trezza and Gabriela Sanchez	Office: 215.278.2495 Mobile: 207.801.1627	justin@myneighborhoodproject.org gabriela@myneighborhoodproject.org	After school program geared to keep students off the streets while engaging them in all forms of arts to help them express their opinions about their community and personal lives.	9th-12th	
	EducationField trips	Philadelphia Art Museum	Jeannette Wheeler	215-684-7582		Occasional free field trips to our high achieving and art-fanatic students	9th-12th	
	Providence Center	Providence Center	Maura Bernt		mbernt@providencenecenter.org	Provides various resources to our students including leadership opportunities and jobs.	9th-12th	
	Philly Young Playwrights		Mindy A. Early	Phone: 215.665.9226 Fax: 215.665.9228	Mindy@phillyyoungplaywrights.org	After school program geared to engage students in theatre and arts careers exposure. Shadowing program, one-on-one, mentorships, in-class workshops	9th-12th	
Attendance	CityYear	CityYear	Joe Miller	717-636-0765	Jmiller2@cityyear.org	Attendance tracking and parent phone calls to 9th grade parents. After school homework help and extracurricular activities enhancing attendance	9th	
Socio-emotional/Behavioral health	Jewish Family and Children Services	Peers Making Peace/ Too Good for Drugs, Too Good for Violence	Adrianne Madnick/ Renee Mezer	267-256-2056	amadnick@jfcspilly.org	Violence Prevention Program-Peer mediation, self-esteem boost training and Conflict resolution.	whole school	
Teacher Development	UPenn	UPenn GSE	Kate Kinney Grossman		kinneym@gse.upenn.edu	student teaching, proposing more involvement to service KHSA needs	whole school	
Family and Community Engagement	School District	SAC	Linda Maldonado	(215)291-5680	lmaldonado@philasd.org	parent coordinator for SAC, helps coordinate meetings and have more interaction with parents at the high school level	whole school	
Other	Gift of Life Donor Services	Field Trip	Todd Franzen	215-557-8090	tfranzen1@donors1.org	Informational Field Trip regarding transplantation, organ donation, tissue matching and real-life stories of recipients and donors	10th-12th	
	CHOP	Health Screenings				Health Fair Services	Community	



Example of Needs Assessment



	Ranking (choose 1 to 10. 1 is highest priority)	List a specific need in this area	Do you have an idea for a partnership that could address this specific need? Please list here. (ex. Academic Intervention—low 3 rd grade reading scores—individual Temple student tutors)
Academic Support			
Attendance			
Climate			
College Access and Career Readiness			
Enrichment and/or Out of School Time Programming			



Accomplishments



- Cultivated new or revived old partnerships
- Engaged more than **420 partner organizations** last year
- Policy work and data collection: School Advisory Councils, partnership landscape and absenteeism
- Generated over **\$190,000 in cash** and **\$270,000 in non-cash** resources
- Mobilized over **1,000 volunteers**
- Positive collaborations with some CDCs, Business and Neighborhood Associations, most notably HACE in the Kensington/Fairhill area, Mt. Airy USA and EPX (East Passyunk Crossing) as well as “Friends of” and Home and School groups



Lessons Learned So Far

- Partners respond positively to regular partner meetings and hearing school needs. Grateful for an “in” to school and want to help in creative ways
- VISTAs need the buy-in from the principal and leadership team to succeed
- Principals need to be able to clearly articulate goals and priorities, but also good to engage teachers in needs assessment



Benefits of Partner Meetings

- Provides forum for school to articulate outstanding immediate needs as well as longer-term goals and priorities
- Helps school align partner organization resources to school needs and priorities
- Help partners build capacity to better serve students through increasing collaboration with other partners
- Serves as a potential space in which to share data
- Improves partner access to students and staff
- Can be incubator for parental engagement



Aspirations

- Institutionalize the community partner meeting at the school level for its sustainability after VISTA
- Share lessons learned with other intermediaries and SDP (Toolkit; new SDP job position)
- Embed PHENND VISTA project in a larger city-wide community schools strategy (Organizations Coordinating Partnerships working group)



Partnership Toolkit and other VISTA project-related items

- http://philaosp.weebly.com/uploads/3/1/3/8/31387637/partnership_toolkit_november_28_2016_final.pdf
- Office of Strategic Partnerships, School District of Philadelphia
<http://philaosp.weebly.com/>
- Office of Research and Evaluation: [2015-16 School Support Census Report](#)

(right click to open hyperlinks)





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Successful School-Based Partnerships: What Does it Take?



BOLD
THINKERS
DRIVING
REAL-WORLD
IMPACT



Prepared By:

Abt Associates

4550 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 800 North
Bethesda, MD 20814

In Partnership With:

Philadelphia Youth Network

400 Market Street
Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Partnership Coordination Models

Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND)



11 VISTAs at
11 Schools



2 VISTAs at
School District



Application
Process



Southeast Philadelphia Collaborative (SEPC)



2 Full-Time Coordinators
at 6 Schools



United Communities
Ties

What Did We Want to Find Out?

- Roles and functions of partnership coordinators
- Successes, challenges, and lessons learned
- Tools to define partnership goals and assess readiness and capacity to effectively collaborate



What Were the Roles and Functions of Partnership Coordinators?

- Serve as liaison between school and external partners
- Raise awareness of partner resources
- Conduct needs assessments and match school needs with partners' services
- Facilitate communication, planning, and collaboration among partners
- Support schools' parent and community engagement efforts



What Were the Successes of Partnership Coordination?

85%

- Partners satisfied or very satisfied with the partnership coordination efforts

84%

- Partners agreed or strongly agreed partnership coordination has helped their organization **become more aware of** other partner organizations serving the school

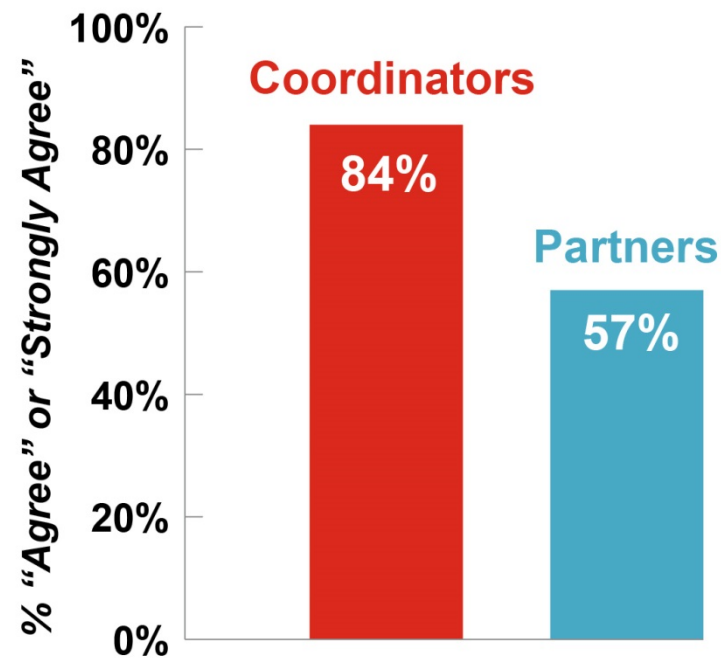
74%

- Partners agreed or strongly agreed the coordinator helped to **increase communication** between their organization and other organizations partnering with the school

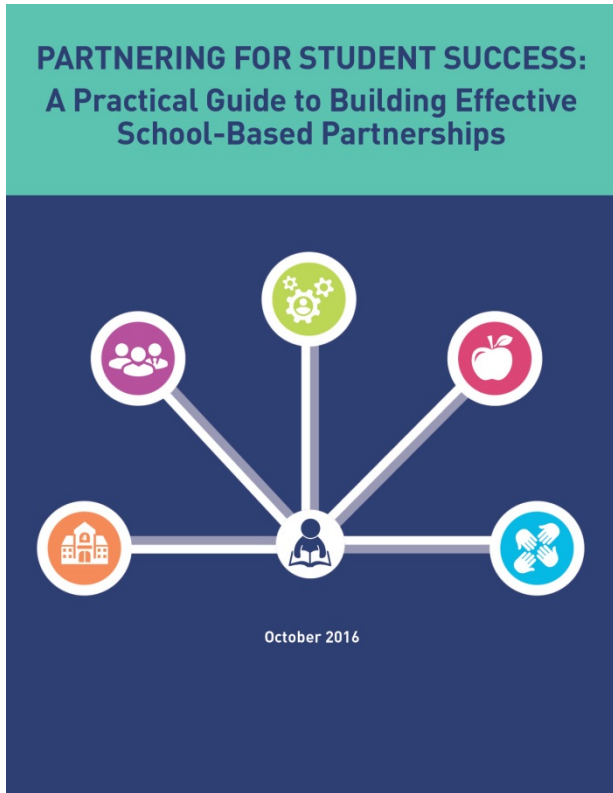
What Were the Challenges of Partnership Coordination?

- Securing buy-in from multiple stakeholders
- Establishing and maintaining relationships
- Articulating and prioritizing school needs was a time consuming process
- School and community contexts

Partnership coordination increased the alignment between the goals of the school and its **partner organization**



Why Create a Guide for Partnerships?



- Multiple stakeholders are key to partnership success
- Schools lack funds for partnership coordination, but could benefit from assistance to develop and maintain successful partnerships
- No single document existed to guide conversations and decisions between partnership stakeholders



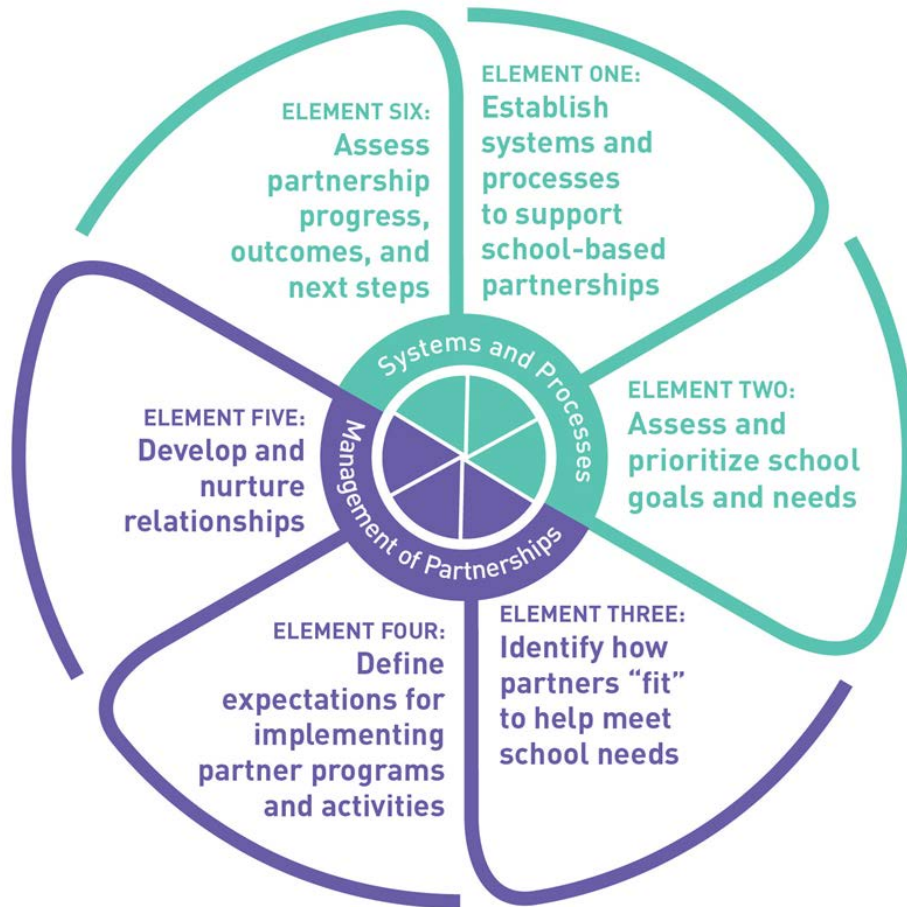
What does the Guide Include?

- Purpose, audience, and use of toolkit
- Elements of school-based partnerships
- Stakeholder roles and responsibilities
- Questions to guide stakeholder discussions
- Toolboxes with resources
- Checklist for developing, coordinating, and maintaining partnerships
- Highlights from school-based partnership coordination in Philadelphia

Stakeholders who contribute to partnership success	
	School District
	School Leader
	Partnership Coordinator
	Teachers and School Staff
	Partner Organization



Elements of School-Based Partnerships



Element One: Establish systems and processes to support school-based partnerships

- 1.1 Communicate the value of partnerships
- 1.2 Provide centrally located information and resources to support school-based partnerships
- 1.3 Designate partnership coordinator(s) to facilitate communication between school and partners



Element Two: Assess and prioritize school goals and needs

- 2.1 Conduct a comprehensive, data-driven assessment of school-wide needs and assets
- 2.2 Prioritize school needs that can be met through school-based partnerships



Element Three: Identify how partners “fit” to help meet school needs

- 3.1 Conduct a partnership inventory to identify existing supports
- 3.2 Identify and recruit new partners to fill service gaps
- 3.3 Articulate and align school-partner goals



Element Four: Define expectations for implementing partner programs and activities

- 4.1 Define programs, activities, and population served by each partner
- 4.2 Use school- and student-level data to align and/or establish performance targets for each partnership
- 4.3 Identify resources and supports each partner needs from the school and confirm availability



Element Five: Develop and nurture relationships

- 5.1 Provide opportunities for relationship building between partners and school stakeholders
- 5.2 Establish expectations for communication between the school and partner
- 5.3 Articulate the role of the partnership coordinator(s) and how stakeholders should work with them
- 5.4 Set expectations for cross-partner communication and collaboration








Element Six: Assess partnership progress, outcomes, and next steps

- 6.1 Identify data to be collected and analyzed
- 6.2 Establish processes for measuring progress against performance targets
- 6.3 Review and reflect upon data to inform partnership and programming decisions



Stakeholder roles and responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities for establishing systems and processes to support school-based partnerships					
	 School District	 School Leader	 Partnership Coordinator	 Teachers and School Staff	 Partner Organizations
1.1 Communicate the value of partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and communicate a vision for how school-based partnerships can help meet district and school goals and needs Provide examples of partnerships that demonstrate their benefits to schools and the students and families they serve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and communicate a vision for how school-based partnerships can help meet school and district goals Set expectations for including partners in school meetings and activities Encourage collaboration and share examples of partnership success with teachers, school staff, community members, and partner organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information about school-based partnerships to increase awareness of specific partnership services and activities Share examples of partnership success with teachers, school staff, community members, and partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate the value of available partnerships to students and their families Embrace partnerships as a way to meet school goals and student needs Share examples of partnership success with district and school leaders, other teachers and school staff, parents, and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain specific partnership services and potential value-added in ways that school staff can relate to Share examples of partnership success with district and school leaders, teachers and school staff, parents, and communities

Discussion questions

Sample questions to guide stakeholder discussions about identifying how partners “fit” to help meet school goals (Element Three)



Conversations between School Leaders / Coordinators / Teachers and Partner Organizations



Conversation Topics

- Alignment of school and partner goals
- Information about school population and needs
- Understanding of partner services, approach, and impact



School Leader / Partnership Coordinator Asks:

- What are the goals of your organization?
- What is your organization's approach to meeting your goals?
- What have been the results of the intervention your organization provides?
- To what extent does your organization understand or have experience with the school population?
- To what extent does your organization have the capacity to provide your services / resources to the school population?
- How does your organization enhance existing school supports or fill unmet school needs?
- Does the partnership have the potential to be mutually beneficial?



Partner Organization Asks:

- What are the school's goals?
- What is the school's approach to meeting its goals?
- What supports currently exist in the school to meet the needs of the school population?
- What are some unmet needs of the school?
- Does the partnership have the potential to be mutually beneficial?

Conversations between District Staff and Partnership Coordinators



Conversation Topics

- Information about potential partner organizations



School District Asks:

- What other types of partner organizations could the school benefit from that are not currently in the district-wide partner organization database?



Partnership Coordinator Asks:

- What local partner organizations are available to fulfill the school's unmet needs?
- Who are the points of contact for the organizations?
- What has been the experience of other schools working with the organization in the past?



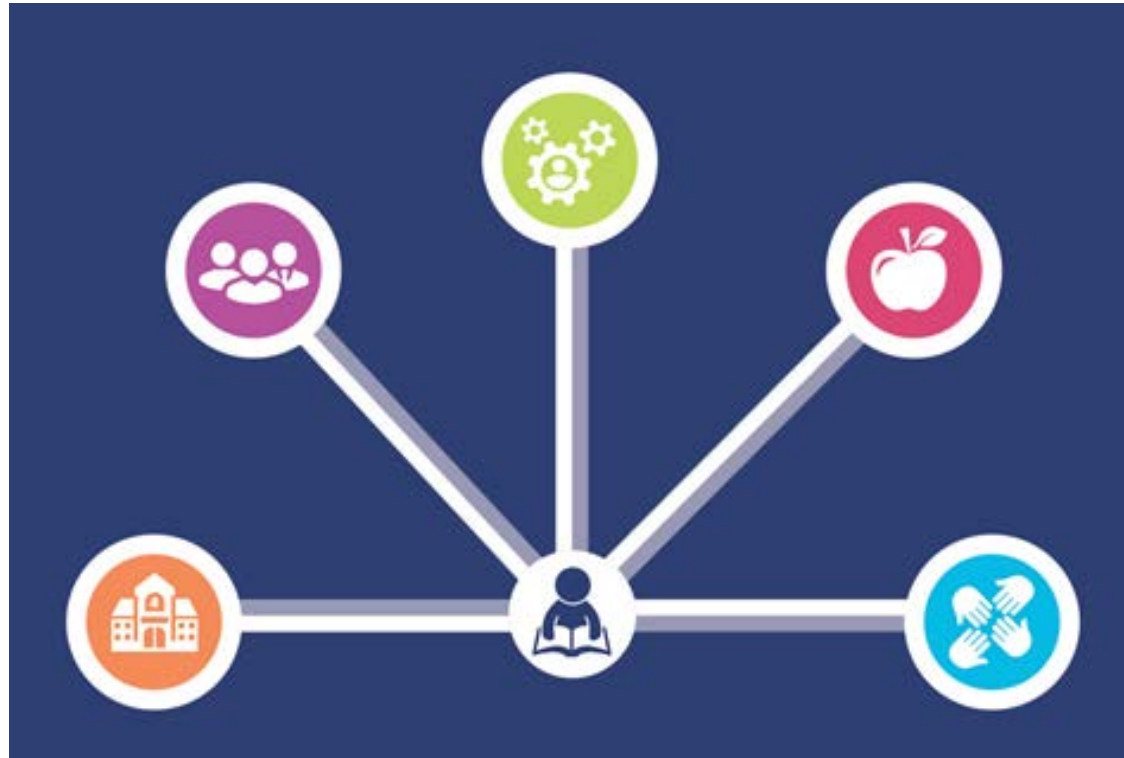
Toolboxes and resources



- District partnership websites and documents
- School Mission and Goals Worksheet for Principals
- Whole School Needs Assessment for Teachers
- Needs Assessment Toolkit
- Community Partner Identification Tool
- School Partnership Assessment Rubric
- Community School Program and Service Checklist
- Prospective Partners Inquiry Form
- District Memorandum of Understanding and Sample Letter of Agreement
- Checklist for Partner Communications
- Sample Partnership Meeting Agenda
- School-Age Program Observation Tool
- A Shared Vision for Youth: Common Outcomes and Indicators



How can this guide be used?



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Small Group Activity



- Think of a school-based partnership you have worked with.
- Rate how often the school and its partners have done each of the elements of effective school-based partnerships (use Page 1 of handout).
- Choose one element (from Elements 3 – 6) that you would like to improve or extend.
- Review the “Roles and Responsibilities” and “Discussion Questions” Exhibits for the Element you chose (use Pages 2- 9 of handout).
- Complete the Planning Grid (use Page 10 of handout).
- Discuss Planning Grids in small group.



Discussion

- Volunteers to share Planning Grids?
 - Did you identify areas of improvement for the school-based partnership?
 - What are some of the next steps identified for the schools? For partners?
- What are some of the barriers you might face in implementing the steps on your Planning Grid?
- What are some of the ways you can overcome those barriers?
- What key ideas or strategies can you incorporate into your work?

