**COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY Activities**



* Develop a conduct a survey of school families to know what services they need
* Check with community agency: to see if translators are available at the agency, do they make home visits, referral / intake processes, home-school
* Information to help families: (ensure equity of information)
  + Understand and find community resources to meet their needs
  + School policies on community visitors
  + School policies on absences for community agency appointments
  + Post-graduation transition options (colleges/universities, employment, services student can access as young adult, college and career fair)
  + Parent Mentor / Parent support groups
  + Parent Learning meetings
  + After school programs
  + Summer programs
  + Tutoring
  + Health services
  + Fine arts enrichment
  + Cultural center / events
  + Service opportunities, summer programs, part-time jobs
  + Scholarships
  + Social Services
* Include community members on school improvement initiatives / teams
* Develop “pen pal” connections that increase students’ writing and other school skills (learning of cultures, countries, etc. . .)
* Include parents/family members as community agency / business / career exploration speaker
* Encourage after-school staff and teachers to observe each other to support student learning
* Invite after-school program staff to attend professional development activities
* Organize and maintain an active parent–teacher organization(s) that focuses on community partnerships
* Offer parent and student training in community leadership and collaboration
* Encourage parents to invite representatives from community agency that student may work with to student-focused meetings (ETR, IEP, other)
* Provide information on community activities that link to learning skills and talents
* Involve families and students in field trips in the community that enrich learning
* Partner with community organizations / local businesses and older students in district for mentor program
* Work with local businesses to organize discounts as incentives for students to improve attendance and grades; as fund-raising activities; as employment opportunities; as service-learning opportunities.
* Recognize and link students’ valuable learning experiences in the community to the school curriculum – build lessons on non-school skills and talents, club and volunteer work, and part-time jobs
* Organize performances and hands-on activities to feature activities from various cultural groups; host cultural fair and tie to curriculum activities
* Have a “parent / alumni” participant day at a sports team / school club activity – parents / alumni run drills with students, parents vs. students, etc. . .
* Make sure the school building incorporates the culture of (represents) the community
* Organize a community resource fair
* Organize a “community walk” and encourage agencies / businesses to have open house
* Work with local grocers / farmers to provide healthy snacks
* Have a “parent learning center” area within school district – offer resources, computers, GED classes, ESL classes, parenting classes, etc. . . – partner with libraries, social services, courts, and other agencies that would serve areas of family needs
* Enhance Types 1-5 with community partners

*RESOURCES:*

*Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School-Partnerships,* by Henderson, A.T. et al.. (2007). The New Press.

Coalition for Community Schools: Scaling Up School and Community Partnerships Guide

<http://www.communityschools.org/ScalingUp/>

Ohio Department of Education

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Family-and-Community-Engagement>

*School, Family, and Community Partnerships, Third Edition*, by J.L. Epstein et al.. (2009). Corwin Press.