



National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities

Focus Area: *Building School-Community Partnerships*

Attributes:

1. **Effective partnerships between schools and the community benefit both parties. Mutual respect, understanding and flexibility are necessary to a true partnership.**
2. **Effective partnerships give back to the community by increasing school engagement, decreasing dropout and preparing youth for a successful transition to post-school life.**
3. **Effective partnerships support the economic well being of the community by contributing to the development of a literate, skilled workforce and to the sustainability of the local economy.**

Goal:

Strategy:

Some Effective Strategies

1. Identify and prioritize the school-completion needs in your school. Clearly define the problem and the scope of what you hope to address through a partnership. List and prioritize your desired outcomes. Keep your scope reasonable and achievable! Remember to stay flexible.
2. Examine what, if anything, has already been done to address the problem. Are those efforts still in existence? Did they help? Why/why not? Can you leverage these existing efforts to help with your plan? Whether they failed or succeeded, what can you learn from them?
3. Identify community and business resources that might be used to help address the problem. Identify the steps to gaining access to those resources. Identify key participants and responsibilities. As you work to form your partnership(s) remember your goals for the partnership, and build in a way to measure progress toward those goals.



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Specific Action	Progress	Barriers
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.