

# Engaging the Community to Enrich Education

## School/Community Partnerships

The 21st century presents enormous and changing challenges in preparing students for the future. Unfortunately, schools can't do it alone. The entire community – businesses, civic groups, government agencies, faith communities, parents, and concerned citizens – must work together to provide a learning environment where young people grow, develop, and find networks of support.

### Establishing Partnerships

- Contact the school district coordinator at 205-231-6060 or Amitchell2@bhm.k12.al.us
- Identify potential school(s) and meet with school leadership to identify areas of focus
- Discuss school opportunities
- Define short- and long-term partnership goals and outcomes
- Identify activities that meet needs and align with school/district goals
- Establish partnership management structure, key contacts, and operational procedures
- Formulate plan and timeline for implementation
- Launch partnership activities
- Monitor and evaluate

## What are the Benefits of Partnering with Schools?

### To Businesses/Organizations:

- Rewarding and satisfying experiences for employees
- A greater understanding of the quality and needs of our schools, and the potential and promise of our scholars
- An investment in tomorrow's leaders, workforce, and customers
- Creation of. Sense of teamwork and mutual achievement
- Positive contribution to the enhancement of our community

### To Students:

- Enriched curriculum
- Identification with successful role models,
- Increased awareness of and information about today's and tomorrow's careers and skills needed for future workforce success
- Increased motivation resulting in increased achievement and improved attendance

### To the Community:

- Strong public school system
- Well prepared workforce
- Improved and connected community relationships built on cooperation and mutual respect

## Partnership FAQs

### What is a partnership?

A partnership is a committed, aligned and mutually beneficial relationship between a business/organization and a school wherein all engaged parties provide a wide variety of mutually beneficial supportive services, advice, and resources, focused on engagement, and positive student and school outcomes

### As a partner? What have I/we signed up to do?

As a partner, you have expressed a desire to help schools and students meet identified goals and needs. Partnerships are flexible, with the terms of the relationship mutually established by the partner organization and school. What you do in partnership with a school depends upon the capabilities, interests, and desired reasons for engaging. Whatever you can contribute – volunteers, expertise, career exploration, materials, or other types of assistance – your involvement is welcomed and appreciated.

### Who is the typical partner?

There is no typical partner. Partners range from national corporations to branch locations to “mom and pop” businesses to interested individuals. Schools have opportunities for engagement for the entire community.