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# **Davie County Schools' Educational Partnership Program**

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Mission:** The *Educational Partnerships* program is an initiative to create a K-12 schools-students-community connection system intended to increase the number of partnerships within the Davie County community. These partnerships will improve student achievement through contextual learning, focused delivery of teaching aids, tutoring other classroom programs and a blending of community support for academic excellence that all translate into an improved citizenry and workforce.

**Goal:** The ultimate goal is to assist students and our schools with obtaining valuable life skills through community support which will positively impact student achievement.

**Strategies:** The *Educational Partnerships* program will facilitate such partnerships by promoting nationally recommended best practices. This will be done by providing opportunities for schools and partners to meet and plan how they can work together to assist our students and staff in achieving high student performance. We will have a Partnership Board to oversee this program. The Board will consist of representation from an elementary, middle and high school. In addition, we will have a representative from a business, church, retiree group, healthcare and community organization.

**Parameters for Partnerships with Schools:** It is important that some type of contact/communication is made *at least once a month*. This could happen in a variety of ways to include, but is not limited to, any of the ideas listed in this brochure.

Principals and Priority IV team members in the school will be asked to monitor the partnership on a regular basis.

We realize that many organizations like to make donations and they are always welcome and encouraged; however, this alone does not constitute as a partnership for the *Educational Partnerships* program.

Thank you for supporting our students and schools!!

Every school will be asked to establish *at least 3 partnerships* as follows:

- One partnership with a business
- One partnership with a church
- One partnership with a community organization

In addition, partnerships with retirees and healthcare organizations will be encouraged.

### **Businesses**

Partnerships with local restaurants, financial institutes, Realtors, retail shops and other businesses in Davie County.

### **Churches**

It is vital to the success of our students to include the faith-based community in our schools. Every school should establish at least one partnership with a church.

### **Community Organizations**

Each school should partner with a civic, non-profit, human service, public service or any other community organization (ex: Rotary Club, Kiwanis, YMCA, 4-H, United Way, Police Department, Fire Department, etc.)

### **Retirees**

Schools should reach out to retirees in our community. These individuals and groups (ex. Retired Teachers' Association) are instrumental in volunteering in our schools.

### **Healthcare**

We encourage schools to consider partnering with our local hospitals, dental offices, doctors, chiropractic offices, nutritionists, optometrists and any other healthcare organization in the community.

### **Some Ways Volunteers May Help Schools:**

- Tutor students. All ages, All grades. Focus in Reading, Math and Writing
- Reading Buddies: Read a book (or two) once a week with a child
- Lunch Buddies: Have lunch once a week with a child
- Volunteer to help with special class projects (ex: Family Math Night, Science Night, Parent Read Night)
- Sponsor a School Event (ex: Science Fair, Spelling Bee, Fall Festival)
- Donate classroom materials and supplies
- Volunteer to help with teacher recognitions
- Sponsor a celebration for Character Education students
- Sponsor a breakfast or lunch for staff members
- Donate gifts for staff members during National Staff Appreciation Week (first week in May)
- Provide student incentives
- Pitch in with School Beautification Projects
- Volunteer to help at home (type up children made books, help with art projects, make costumes for school plays)
- Adopt a class (ex: ESL class, students who are learning English for the first time) and provide materials or learning opportunities
- Donate Supplies
- Conduct business or company tours for students
- Coach *Odyssey of the Minds* teams for gifted students
- Coach "Battle of the Books" teams
- Organize or help run a Book Fair
- Participate in Field Days, clocking times and awarding ribbons
- Help with clerical work and help free up a teacher's time
- Speak to classes about your work, your hobbies or other special topics

### **Some Ways Schools Can Help Golden Opportunity Partners:**

- Serve as a Resource to Organizations on topics of interest (ex: lunch lectures on Being a Parent of a Teenager or Curriculum in the Elementary School)
- Provide student artwork for restaurant office and business walls
- Assist with special events (ex: make floral arrangements for company lunches and dinners)
- Provide entertainment at office holiday parties or business events (jazz band, chorus, drama)
- Use of school facilities at a reduced rate
- Season passes to athletic games
- Invitations to student plays and concerts
- Hold company picnics at schools or school system facilities
- Product development: Let our teachers test your new products

*Note: These are possible partner perks. Each school may not be equipped to provide every service listed here. Together we can come up with new ideas for your school partnership!*

The possibilities are ENDLESS.