

School and Community Connections



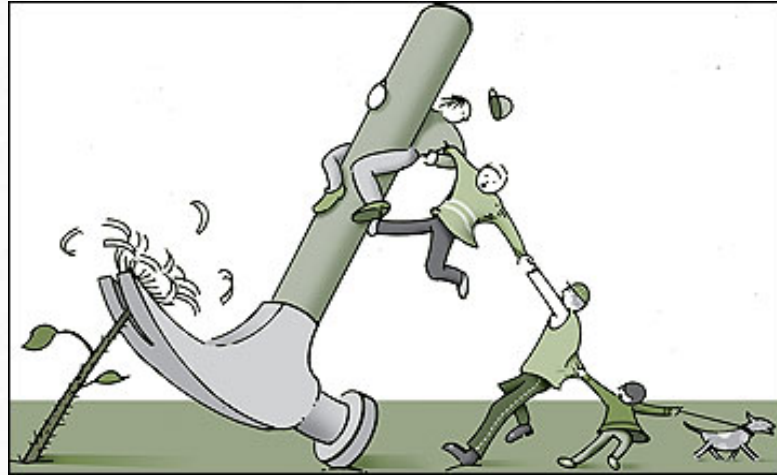
Definition of Terms

Connection:

A relationship or an association.



Definition of Terms



Community:

Groups living in the same area or having interests, work or activities in common.

School and Community Connections

Presentation Objectives

- The benefits of school and community connections.
- Defining objectives to school and community connections.
- Identifying potential school and community partners.

School and Community Connections

Presentation Objectives

- The role of School Action Teams in developing community connections.
- Ways in which school and community connections influence and enhance learning for all.
- Examples of activities/events that schools and community connections can organize and facilitate.

Benefits to school and community connections

- Equips schools with resources.
- Increases students' learning experiences.
- Professionals and others with unique expertise able to add their voices and experiences to decision making processes.
- Avail families of needed aids, interventions, and information.
- Share the burden of expenditures.
- Added accountability.

Defining objectives of school and community connections

- Identify and define school and community connections.
- Identify the ways in which your school is currently connecting with community leaders and organizations.
- Define the role of schools leaders in facilitating an effective school and community connection.
- Define the role of the 'school action team' in working with community leaders and organizations.

Identifying Community Stakeholders

- Parents, Grandparents, Relatives
- Faith-based organizations
- Business Community – Banks, Restaurants, Corporations
- Local Community Leaders
- Service Agencies: Mental Health, Dental, Medical
- Local Non-Profits: Rotary, Lions, Elks, YMCA, YWCA, and VFWs

Identifying Community Stakeholders

- Retired Educators
- Senior Citizens
- Other school districts
- Artists and Entrepreneurs
- Colleges and Universities
- School and District Alumni

The role of school action teams in developing community connections

- Define SMART goals for your school and community connections or partnerships.
- Create and delegate methods of two-way communication between partners.
- Delegate levels of leadership to ensure effective programming.
- Engage a broad base of community leaders and organizations.

The role of school action teams in developing community connections

- Include community partners in your decision making and respect their opinions.
- Parents or family members should be a part of the school action team or include them in your community connections or partnerships.
- Connect with community members that can provide parent skills and training to your team and school.

Ways in which school and community connections enhance learning for all

Enhance Learning for School Administrators

- Community connections can be a voice and liaison for the school in the community and neighborhood.
- Community connections can bring awareness of learning opportunities for students, families and educators.
- Community connections can bring support on sensitive issues that affects the safety and well being of students and families.

Ways in which school and community connections enhance learning for all

Enhance Learning for Educators

- Community connections can support curriculum and lesson plans by sharing experiential opportunities for students.
- Community connections can offer support for a healthy and safe classroom.
- Community connections can be culturally specific resources to developing a culturally inclusive classroom.

Ways in which school and community connections enhance learning for all

Enhance Learning for Students

- Community connections can increase the social culture and opportunities for students for mentorship.
- Community connections provide relationship opportunities with businesses, colleges and other organizations.
- Community connections help bring positive dialogue between students and community that can reduce the generational gap and promote wellness.

Examples of activities/events that School and Community Connections can organize or facilitate

Elementary

- Afterschool homework help and enrichment program.
- Multicultural events and activities.
- Neighborhood involvement day.
- Lunch and reading buddies program.
- Community garden.

Examples of activities/events that School and Community Connections can organize or facilitate

Secondary

- Afterschool mentorship program.
- E-Mentors with other schools or businesses.
- Student intern program at organizations or businesses.
- Student support groups.
- Student service leadership program.

Resources

- School Community Partnership Program – Clark County

<http://ccsd.net/community/partnership/>

- Ten ways to build Community Partnerships

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lc_8Qjl2GPU&feature=player_embedded#!

- Community schools are Smart schools

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=90RXq568_D4