Standards for Family-School Partnerships Webinar Series

Standard Six:
Collaborating with the Community

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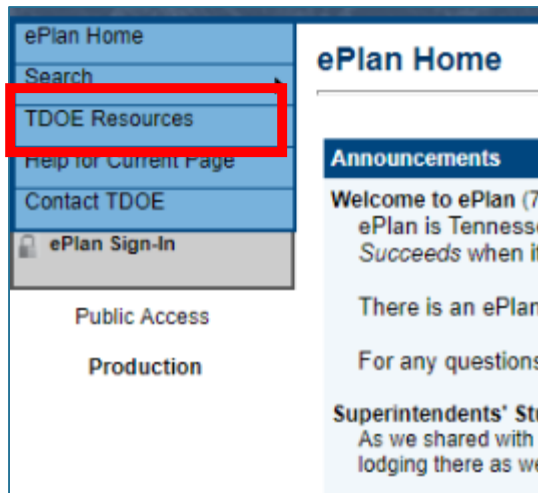**Standards for Family-School Partnerships**

Standards for Family-School Partnerships

- Tennessee's family engagement standards were enacted by Senate Bill No. 293 in 2009.
- These standards are based on the [PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#) and were formally adopted by the State Board of Education beginning in the 2010-11 school year.

Webinar Series

- Recordings of all webinars and associated resources will be posted in the "Parent and Family Engagement Resources" folder in [TDOE Resources](#) in ePlan.

Standard Six: Collaborating with the Community

Objectives

- Identify characteristics of meaningful collaboration.

- Explore strategies for building collaborations with community organizations.

Questions for Reflection

- What does it mean to have meaningful collaboration with the community?

- What are the benefits of collaborating with the community?

Collaborating with the Community

- Families and school staff collaborate with community members to **connect** students, families, and staff to **expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation**.

National PTA (2008). PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Assessment Guide. National PTA: Washington, DC.

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Collaborating with the Community

- **Goal: Connecting the School with Community Resources**
  - Ask yourself:
    - Do families and school leaders work closely with community organizations, businesses, and institutions of higher education to strengthen the school, make resources available to students, school staff, and families, and build a family-friendly community?
  - Indicators:
    - Linking to community resources
    - Organizing support from community partners
    - Turning the school into a hub of community life
    - Partnering with community groups to strengthen families and support student success

National PTA (2008). PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Assessment Guide. National PTA: Washington, DC.

What is Collaboration?

- Collaboration is a mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship entered into by two or more groups working together to achieve results they are more likely to achieve together than alone.

Winer, M., & Ray, K. (2000). Collaboration handbook: Creating, sustaining, and enjoying the journey. St. Paul: MN: Amherst Wilder Foundation.

What is Collaboration?

- In collaborative relationships:
  - Capacities of partners are expanded and enhanced.
  - You view each other as partners rather than competitors.
  - Partners share risks, responsibilities, reward, and credit.

McGah, J., & Saavedra, E. (2015). Homelessness and education cross-system collaboration: Applied research summary and tools. Greensboro, NC: National Center for Homeless Education.

What is Collaboration?

Cooperating

Coordinating

Collaborating

Why Collaborate?

- Community partnerships can help:
  - Support school safety and climate and the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of students;
  - Address an increasingly diverse community and student population;
  - Offer students and families opportunities for learning outside the school;
  - Develop a more positive view of youth throughout the community; and
  - Develop stronger community trust in the district/school.

Why Collaborate?

- Community partners can help provide:
  - Transportation,
  - Child care,
  - Food and beverages for events,
  - Volunteer support,
  - Service learning opportunities,
  - Facilities,
  - Career and workforce training,
  - Academic enrichment opportunities,
  - And much more!

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Questions for Reflection

- What does it mean to have meaningful collaboration with the community

- What are the benefits of collaborating with the community?

Strategies for Collaborating with the Community

Question for Reflection

- How can we develop cooperative, coordinated, and **meaningful collaborative** partnerships?

Collaborating with the Community

Strategies for collaborating with the community include:

- **Organizing support** from community partners

- Connecting the school with **community resources**

- Partnering with community groups to **support student success**

- Making the school the **hub of the community**

Organize Support from Community Partners

- Develop meaningful partnerships:
  - Find partners with **compatible goals**.
    - Link school and student success to community development.
    - Work together to assess community needs and find ways partners can provide resources.
  - Focus on developing **mutually beneficial relationships**.
    - Identify and understand the priorities of all stakeholders involved and how they fit into your broader goals.

Organize Support from Community Partners

- Provide professional development for staff on how to effectively partner with families and the community.
  - School and district leaders and/or project leads, in particular, will need training in organizational and management skills.

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Organize Support from Community Partners

- Identify **Key Stakeholders** From:
  - Child welfare services
  - The criminal justice system
  - Universities
  - Public transportation
  - Health care professionals
  - Fine arts organizations
  - Local businesses
  - Public sector officials at the municipal, county, state, and federal levels (e.g., an education liaison at each level of government)

Organize Support from Community Partners

- Create a **collaborative leadership system**.
  - Distribute power, authority, and responsibility across all stakeholders.
  - Develop firm partnerships and agreements in support of this new way of doing business.
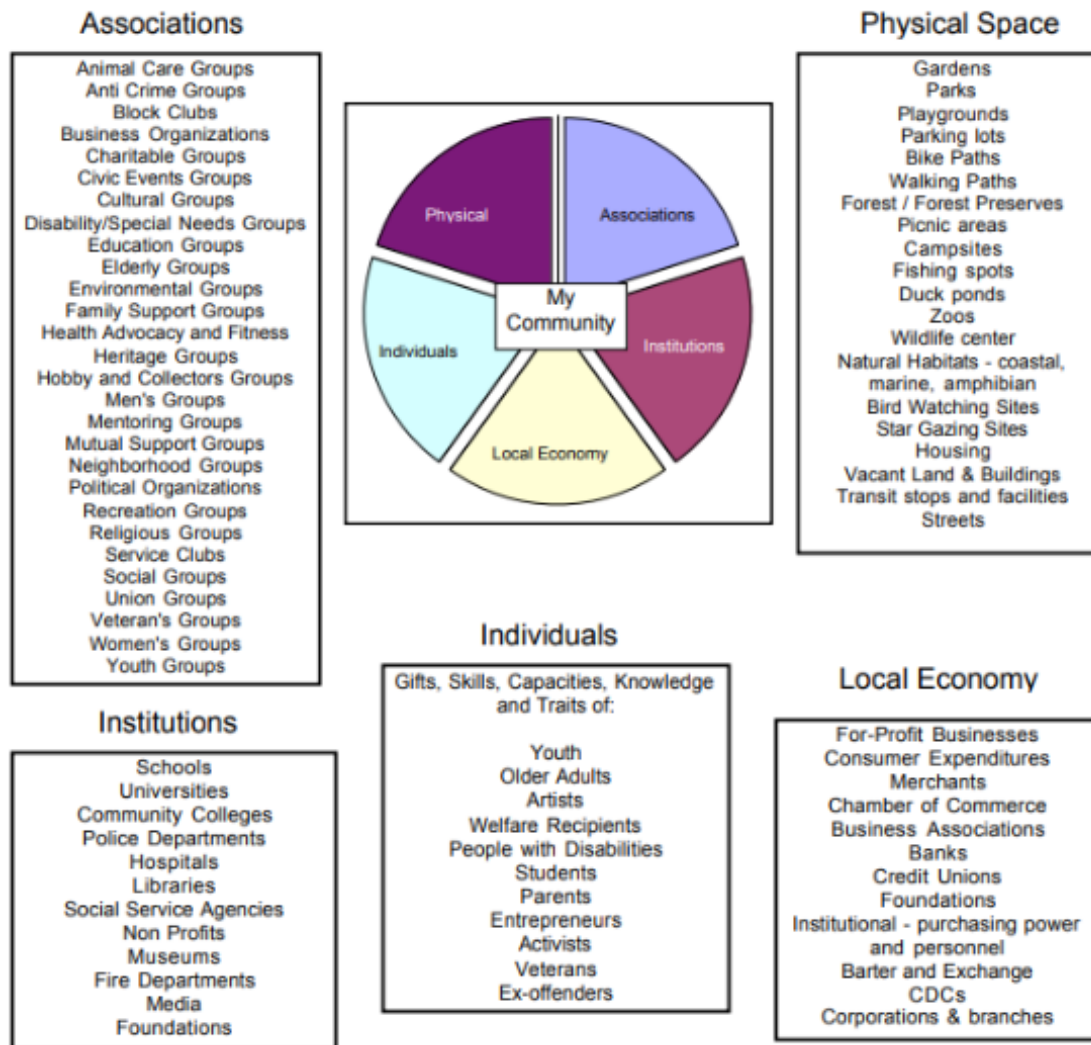
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Organize Support from Community Partners

- Collaborative Leaders:
  - Foster shared commitments.
  - Facilitate lasting relationships.
  - Respect team members' ideas.
  - Support team members' efforts.
  - Provide appropriate levels of autonomy.
  - Share information and knowledge.
  - Encourage team members' suggestions.
  - Allow roles and responsibilities to evolve and fluctuate.

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Organize Support from Community Partners

- **Community asset mapping** is a tool that relies on a core belief of asset-based community development; that good things exist in communities and that those things can be highlighted and encouraged.

- Community asset mapping can help:
  - Identify internal resources that may be untapped.
  - Examine existing partnerships that can be expanded.
  - Find new partners and assets within the community.
  - Identify individuals with connections to community partners.

Community Asset Mapping

Discovering Community Power: A Guide to Mobilizing Local Assets and Your Organization's Capacity, Kretzmann, J. & McKnight, J.; Asset-Based Community Development Institute, School of Education and Social Policy; Northwestern University, 2005.
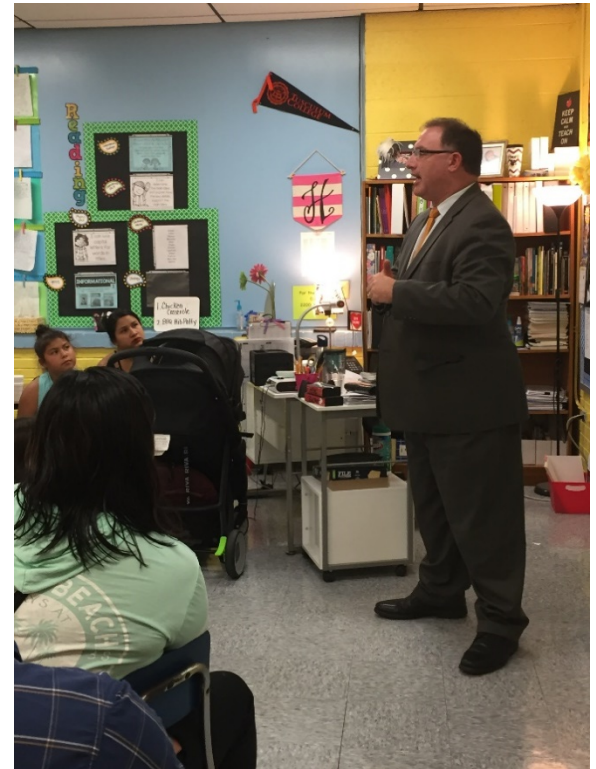
Organize Support from Community Partners

- **Host quarterly partner meetings**:
  - All partners gather together
  - Devote a few minutes for a "partner spotlight"
  - Have students present their work on a project or provide a brief performance
  - Provide updates on progress towards school goals
    - Utilize and share relevant data
    - Discuss successes and challenges/barriers
  - Brainstorm solutions and how partners can help
  - Allow time for partner networking

Connecting the School With Community Resources

- Conduct **surveys and hold focus groups** to gain a better understanding of the needs, assets, goals, and roles of all stakeholders.
- **Collect, describe, and distribute information** for families about community resources and help make family referrals to appropriate resources.
- Partner with community organizations and businesses to provide **resource fairs**.
- Invite community organizations to **present information** on services at family events.

Partner with Community Groups to Support Student Success

- Work with community groups to **co-develop solutions and support** for family and student needs.

- Use **data** to set priorities, focus strategies, and evaluate efforts.

- Engage community partners in:
  - **sponsoring** programs (engagement events, scholarship and incentive programs);
  - providing **resources** for student projects and learning;
  - **marketing key messages** to the community; and
  - providing **service learning** opportunities for students.

Make the School a Hub for the Community

- Community schools bring educators, families, and community partners together to offer a range of opportunities, supports, and services to children, youth as well as their families and communities.
- Community schools:
  - Provide expanded learning opportunities that are motivating and engaging during the school day, after school, and in the summer;
  - Offer essential health and social supports and services; and
  - Engage families and communities as assets in the lives of their children and youth.

Make the School a Hub for the Community

- Provide school and district **facilities** for community events.

- Provide **recreation facilities** after hours for the community and families.

- Provide **access** to the library, computer lab, and other resources for community use.

- Provide **family education classes** in partnership with community organizations.

Question for Reflection

- How can we develop cooperative, coordinated, and **meaningful collaborative** partnerships?

Reflection

What are some ways that your school and district collaborates with the community?

Please send your promising practices to Brinn.Obermiller@tn.gov

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Resources

Resources

- [PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Implementation Guide](#)

- [Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships](#)

- [Engage Every Family: Five Simple Principles](#)

- [Promising Partnership Practices (Colorado Department of Education)](#)

Reference to any resource, organization, activity, product, or service does not constitute or imply endorsement by the Tennessee Department of Education.

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Collaboration Resources

- [Family-School-Community Partnerships 2.0: Collaborative Strategies to Advance Student Learning](#)
- [Developing and Sustaining Community Collaborations (collection of resources from Georgia Department of Education)](#)
- [Community Collaboration for School Innovation Toolkit](#)
- [An Introduction to Community Asset Mapping](#)
- [How to Map School Assets](#)
- [Discovering Community Power: A Guide to Mobilizing Local Assets and Your Organization's Capacity](#)
- [Asset Mapping E-course](#)
- [National Network of Partnership Schools](#)

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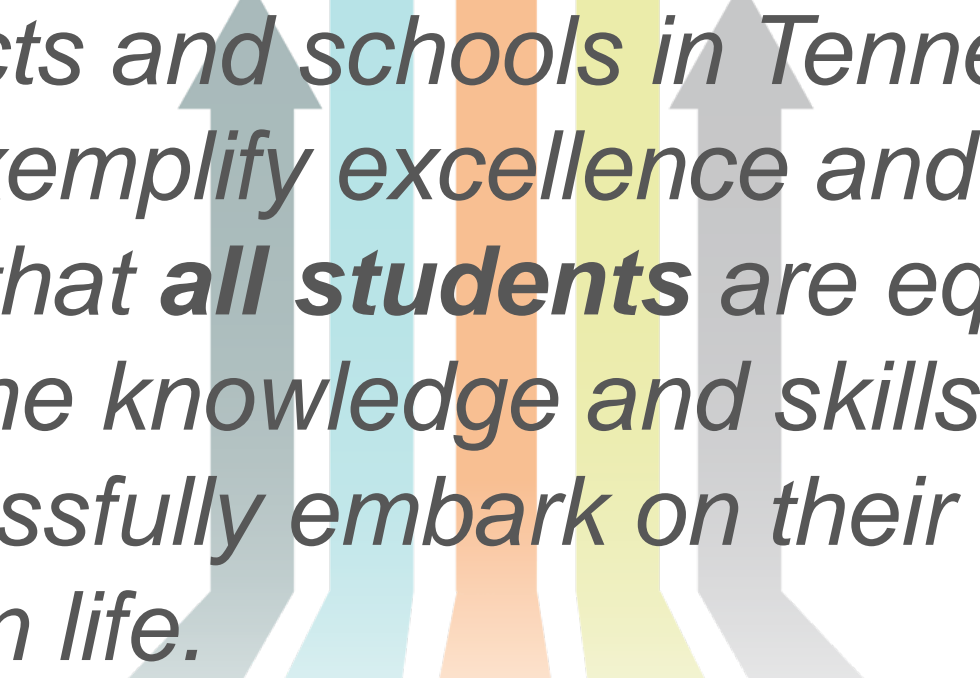
Community School Resources

- [Research Spotlight on Community Schools](#)
- [Community Schools: Partnerships for Excellence](#)
- [What is a Community School?](#)
- [Scaling Up School and Community Partnerships](#)
- [Communities in Schools](#)
- [The Six Pillars of Community Schools Toolkit](#)

Questions? Feedback?

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Our Vision

*Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that **all students** are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.*

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http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline