

GSN Professional Development Series

Designing Community Partnerships to Expand Learning



**Generation
Schools Network**

More time. Effective schools. Successful students.

www.generationschools.org

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Agenda

- **What are community partnerships?**
- **Why are community partnerships helpful to schools?**
- **How can a school set up successful partnerships?**
 - Recruitment of Community Partners & Volunteers
 - Training and Maintaining Partners & Volunteers
 - Innovative Funding Strategies
 - Evaluating Impact
- **Events with Professional Volunteers**
- **Using AmeriCorps Members Effectively in Education Settings**
- **Tips and promising practices**

Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- **Give examples of local community partners**
- **Explain what community partners and volunteers can offer students and teachers**
- **Effectively involve community partners and volunteers into their schools**

How do YOU use community partners & volunteers?



What are community partnerships?

Community partnerships include every formal arrangement a school can make with an individual, association, private sector organization or public institution to provide a program, service or resource that will help support student achievement. (*Community Partnerships*, <https://education.ohio.gov>)

Potential community partnerships are bounded only by your imagination!

Why engage the community?

Community partners can help schools multiply their efforts to address education crises such as:

- **Achievement gap**
- **Opportunity gap**
- **Workforce preparedness gap**
- **Dropout epidemic**
- **Limited resources**

How to engage the community

- **Recruiting Your Partners & Volunteers**
- **Training/Maintaining Partners & Volunteers**
- **Funding**
- **Evaluating Impact**

How to recruit your partners

- **Where to recruit**
 - government agencies, local nonprofit organizations, sources for individual/group volunteers, local businesses and other
- **How to make the connection**
- **Who to bring on board**
 - 5C's of successful school-community partnerships

How to train your partners

- **Schedule training**
- **Paperwork**
- **Handbook**
- **Modes of communication**
- **MOU signed (if applicable)**

Funding Partner Programs in Schools



Jane Quinn - VP Children's Aid Society & Director of National Center for Community Schools

How to Evaluate Impact

- **Post session meeting questions**
- **Evaluation surveys**
 - student
 - teacher
 - community partner/volunteer

Events with Professional Volunteers



Events with Professional Volunteers

- **One-time events and in-classroom**
- **Recruiting, training/maintaining, funding, Evaluating Impact**
- **Overall communication**
- **Volunteer relationships with students**

Using AmeriCorps Members Effectively in Education Settings



Using AmeriCorps Members Effectively in Education Settings...

- **Different branches used at education organizations**
- **Projects that education AmeriCorps work on**
- **Recruiting and retaining the right members**
 - **Making sure that it's a two-way street**
- **Overall benefits to using AmeriCorps in education**
 - **School Turnaround AmeriCorps**

Tips and Best Practices

- **Communication Strategies**
- **School Integration Strategies**
- **Funding Strategies**
- **Celebration Strategies**

Final Thoughts & Questions

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