



Trusting Community Partnerships



Before You Watch

► Discussion Questions

1. How are community partnerships defined at our school?
2. What roles do community members play in our school?
3. In what ways does our school contribute to our community?
4. What are the advantages to partnering with community members?
5. What are challenges in developing community partnerships?



► Group Activity

Create three columns on a piece of chart paper.

In the first column, identify the community members, organizations, businesses, agencies, etc. that are currently working with and contributing to our school. In the second column, for each partner listed, identify how that community partner supports our school in promoting positive student outcomes (e.g., provision of activities, services, materials, man-power, etc.). In the third column, identify what our school does to support that community partner.





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► Discussion Questions

1. Share two noteworthy moments related to community partnerships from the video.
3. At the 1:15 mark, we see a community member volunteering with a small group of students in the classroom. How does our school currently use volunteers from our community?
4. At the 1:30 mark, we see the town sheriff interacting with students on the playground. What are the implications of opportunities for interactions among students and community leaders?
6. What are some of the mutual goals and interests our school shares with our community members? What are the benefits of partnering with community members?

► Group Activity

Identify a current or potential community partner for each of the following groups and describe how this partnership benefits both the school and the community partner:

- a) institution of higher education,
- b) local business, c) healthcare, and d) social service providers.

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

“It takes a village to raise a child.” It takes Trusting Community Partnerships to support students, families, and schools. Student achievement and attendance rise when schools engage community members around mutual interests and meaningful goals. Community resources expand and enhance school offerings. Actively working together, schools, institutions of higher education, local businesses, community organizations, healthcare providers, and individuals help students succeed and communities thrive. Reciprocity is the key to trusting community partnerships. The school maintains an open door policy and is a resource to meet critical community needs. Community members serve on school committees, and school leaders are active and contributing members in their community. Trusting Community Partnerships involve everyone in improving all aspects of students’—and their families’—lives.



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After You Watch

► Discussion Questions

1. What are some strategies we could use to cultivate partnerships within our community?
2. Identify how our school currently shares information with the community about school events and governance. Identify how our school seeks feedback from community members about school decisions. How could these processes be enhanced?
4. How do we currently recruit and manage community volunteers within our school?
5. How could we improve or initiate opportunities for community members to volunteer within our school?



► Group Activity

Identify five needs our school currently has, then identify potential community partners that could help meet those needs. Next, create a plan for seeking out support from one of those community partners. As part of the plan, identify what reciprocal benefit our school can provide to meet community needs and strengthen the partnership..