



## **District Accountability System Goal 3, Objective C.1 Business and Community Partnerships Superintendent's Note SY 17-18**

Goal 3, Objective C of the District Accountability System is to increase the number and value of business and community partnerships with our schools. The goal sets a target of at least five or more community or business partnerships at every school throughout the District. Annually, schools are surveyed to gather data related to that goal.

The data shows that the vast majority of our schools met the goal of having five community or business partners. Three schools did not meet the goal in the 2017-18 school year. Additionally, one Charter School did not meet the goal, showing a zero with no data reported. The Community Engagement Liaison in the District Communications Office will reach out to assist schools with obtaining this goal as we head into the next school year.

The schools that did meet the goal have shown consistent growth in the number of business and community partners utilized. Many have committed to various methods to achieve success. Mailing letters and making personal visits remains the primary method for making connections, but a growing number are turning to social media. This strategy helps schools gain community awareness and business connections. By following the accounts of local business or community groups and encouraging the local community members to follow their own accounts, schools are able to foster a greater reach in making new connections.

Some schools have formed committees with the goal of brainstorming to compile not only a list of potential partners, but also the best ways to reach out to them. Several mentioned using their parent facilitators to spearhead that effort. Using the school's PTA organization or existing business partners to recruit new ones is a popular practice, as is requesting that local community or business leaders serve on School Council. Many principals take the time to attend community meetings and give presentations on their schools as an entry point for inviting new partners. The STEM Academy takes it a step further by regularly inviting local businesses and community groups into the school for tours. Savannah Arts Academy regularly invites the community in for exhibits and performances. Many school leaders say they network with local businesses and

community partners that their families patronize. Several of our high schools have strong alumni groups that provide networking opportunities. The annual SCCPSS Business Partner Appreciation event was reported as a place for making connections and several schools mentioned the help of Operation Beacon in recruiting more partner/volunteers for their schools.

See data in tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. In total, more than 500 school based community and business partners contributed to the district's success in the 2017-18 school year. Overall, the number represents a consistent level of partnerships with those reported last year. Those partnerships are providing a wide variety of benefits for our students including donations of goods and services, donations of time to mentor or tutor our students, and opportunities for college and career exploration through real-world experiences.

More than half of responding schools listed a church as community partner. Those religious affiliated partners often participated in mentoring and in many cases provided school supplies or food for students in need. First Presbyterian offers facilities to Savannah Arts Academy for smaller chamber performances as well as an end of year faculty and staff luncheon. White Bluff Presbyterian picks up and tutors 15 White Bluff Elementary students every Thursday during the school year.

Another large group of volunteers is found through our local colleges and college affiliated groups. Savannah State University (SSU) sends education majors to read to the students at Brock Elementary. SSU Physics and Math Professors partnered with engineering teachers at the STEM Academy to co-teach STEM lessons. South University donated over 1,000 books to Hodge Elementary as part of the Million Book Challenge. The Ladies of Zeta Phi Beta taught etiquette lessons and held a "tea-time" event for the young ladies of Gadsden Elementary. In another unique endeavor – South University worked with Heard Elementary to teach yoga/wellness to students in grades 3 and 5.

Businesses remain the largest group of partners with our schools. Their involvement ranges from job or job training opportunities for our students, to mentoring, to material goods and services or monetary donations. Some examples include McDonalds hiring Groves High School students and training them to move into management. The STEM Academy partnered with Gulfstream's marketing team to produce a video for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and BASF provided a Kid's STEM lab for Williams Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. West Chatham Elementary students visit Jalapeno's restaurant each year around Cinco de Mayo where the owner and manager share stories with the children about their culture and the traditional foods they eat in Mexico.

Vaden of Pooler has become an important partner with Pooler Elementary School. The car dealership has donated funds for the purchase of a 32-unit computer on wheels and has dedicated its advertising dollars to promote a campaign to raise more money for the school's needs. The effort has been featured prominently in local radio commercials. They also provide employees that volunteer to read to students and who have also

provided umbrellas to the school’s carpool teams. Sometimes a new partner appears unexpectedly when a need is discovered. Such was the case at Marshpoint Elementary School this year when the school’s dryer broke. Redo Appliances owner Rodney Peppers heard that the school needed a new one and not only delivered, but installed a dryer for them.

Maintaining relationships is one of the most important aspects of growing school business partners. The schools report a variety of ways they work to build and keep those relationships strong. Part of this effort often includes the schools giving back to their partners. Williams Elementary students travel to the Home Depot on Abercorn each year to serenade employees and customers with holiday songs. Also this year, Windsor Forest High School students in the Construction program worked with the Savannah Fire Department to renovate and update the Savannah Fire safety house.

Another part of maintaining relationships is to simply say “thank you.” Pooler Elementary, along with a number of other schools, makes it a point to send written thank you notes and planned visits to thank their partners in person. Others report thanking their partners by tagging them on social media whenever they donate or support the school in some way – part this effort helps promote a partner’s community involvement and helps grow their audience.

Hesse K8 seeks to improve communication with partners by providing them with quarterly newsletters to keep them informed about school events. These efforts provide examples of how partnerships are being made and sustained, and how beneficial community partnerships are providing rewarding experiences for our students.

The following pages list the number and type of business partners by school for the 2017-18 with comparative numbers provided from the previous school year.

**Table 1: Elementary School Business and Community Partners**

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SY 16-17</u>	<u>SY 17-18</u>	<u>PARTNER CATEGORIES</u>
Bloomingtondale	26	26	Goods & services, career exploration
Brock	6	12	Goods & services, civic partners, volunteers
Butler	11	19	Goods & Services, volunteers, civic partners
Gadsden	21	17	Volunteers, goods & services, civic partners
Garden City	9	7	Volunteers, goods & services
Gould	7	11	Goods and services, volunteers
Haven	10	10	Goods & Services, volunteers, civic partners

Heard	12	12	Volunteers, civic partners, career exploration
Hodge	5	21	Civic partners, goods & services
Howard	22	21	Goods & services
Largo-Tibet	13	5	Volunteers, goods & services
Low	7	18	Goods & services, volunteers
Marshpoint	21	21	Volunteers, goods & services
Pooler	22	7	Volunteers, goods & services
Port Wentworth	19	10	Goods & services, volunteers
Pulaski	7	9	Goods & Services, volunteers
Shuman	10	2	Volunteers, goods & services
J.G. Smith	13	13	Goods & services
Southwest	1	3	Goods & services, volunteers
West Chatham	17	12	Volunteers, goods & services
White Bluff	5	5	Goods & services, volunteers
Williams	10	8	Goods & services, volunteers, career
Windsor Forest	11	8	Volunteers, Goods & services

**Table 2: K8 School Business and Community Partners**

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SY 16-17</u>	<u>SY 17-18</u>	<u>PARTNER CATEGORIES</u>
East Broad	7	6	Goods & services, volunteers, civic partnerships
Charles Ellis	11	10	Volunteers, goods & services
Georgetown	13	9	Goods & services, volunteers
Godley Station	7	7	Volunteers, civic partners, goods & services
Garrison	28	22	Civic partners, goods & services
Hesse	10	11	Goods & services, volunteers
Isle of Hope	9	9	Volunteers, goods & services
Rice Creek	8	12	Civic partners, goods & services

**Table 3: Middle School Business and Community Partners**

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SY 16-17</u>	<u>SY 17-18</u>	<u>PARTNER CATEGORIES</u>
Coastal	11	27	Volunteers, Goods & services, civic partners
Derenne	10	14	Volunteers, goods & services, civic organizations, Career & College exploration
Hubert	5	7	Volunteers, career exploration, good & services
Mercer	2	12	Goods & services, civic partners, volunteers
Myers	2	5	Volunteers, goods & services, College & Career exploration
Southwest	12	21	Goods & services, volunteers
STEM Academy	7	5	Volunteers, goods & services, career exploration
West Chatham	10	7	Goods & services

**Table 4: High School Business and Community Partners**

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SY 16-17</u>	<u>SY 17-18</u>	<u>PARTNER CATEGORIES</u>
Beach	7	13	Volunteers, goods & services, civic partners, career exploration
Groves	8	7	Goods & services, career exploration
Islands	11	22	Volunteers, goods & services, career exploration
Jenkins	15	15	Career exploration, volunteers
Johnson	6	6	Goods & services, volunteers
School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High	7	6	Volunteers, goods & services, career exploration
New Hampstead	14	23	Good and Services, volunteers
Savannah Arts	7	7	Volunteers, goods & services, career & college
Sav. Early College	10	9	Volunteers, civic partners, career & college
Windsor Forest	12	29	Goods and services, career exploration
Woodville Tompkins	7	4	Goods and services, career and college

**Table 5: Charter Schools**

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SY 16-17</u>	<u>SY 17-18</u>	<u>PARTNER CATEGORIES</u>
Coastal Empire Montessori	10	9	Goods and Services, volunteers
Oglethorpe Charter	6	34	Civic partners, goods & services
Savannah Classical Academy	0	0	None Reported
Tybee Maritime Academy	8	10	Goods and services, civic partners
Susie King Taylor Charter	-Na-	8	Goods and services, civic partners