

# **District Accountability System Goal 3, Objective C**

## **Business and Community Partnerships**

### **Superintendent's Note – May 2016**

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. A survey was sent to each school in the District during the month of May to gather data related to that goal.

Information gathered shows that the partnerships between our schools and area businesses or community organizations are providing numerous benefits for our students. Those include, but are not limited to, providing valuable donations to our schools, presenting the opportunity for students to gain a better understanding of real world careers and mentoring students to support the growth of a positive educational environment.

Based on data gathered through our survey during the 2015-16 school year – all but two of the schools responding could claim five or more business or community partners. Of those who didn't, one school requested assistance with reaching out to local businesses. Our Community Engagement Liaison will reach out to provide assistance in this area. The other school that did not achieve the goal pointed out that they have added three new business partners in the past school year and are planning to add another 3 to 5 in the coming year.

See data in tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. In total, nearly 400 community and business partners contributed to our success in the 2015-16 school year. Businesses comprise the largest list of partners – but of the schools that answered the survey – nearly 60-percent claimed one or more faith based organization as a partner and 54-percent claimed at least one, and in most cases post-secondary organizations were also listed as a partner.

Our schools sought out those partnerships in a variety of ways. Some sent letters to nearby business or even went door to door paying personal visits. Others solicited names and ideas of potential partners from their parents or volunteers, and even from other business partners already working with the school. Still others sought introduction through civic or school based events. At least one school stated they seek to make new contacts through the District's annual Business Partner Event. Requests for donations of goods or services for a school event or need is another way many relationships with businesses begin.

The schools worked to engage potential partners in a number of ways. Requests for mentors or career speakers is a popular form of connection. Field trips, community events held on campus and PTA organizations also help schools connect. Fundraising opportunities with a variety of businesses help to improve the resources available to our students at a number of schools – enhancing educational opportunities for all.

In many cases these partnerships formed strong relationships with members of the community that will have a lifelong impact for all involved. For example, residents of the Williams Court senior living center read to kindergarten students at Shuman Elementary on a regular basis. The school reports that the senior readers are so attached to the students that they jokingly state how they don't want anyone else reading to "their" students. Savannah Early College reports that their partnership with Build a Bridge has allowed their students the opportunity for college tours.

Our community and business partners also continue to find creative ways to reach our students and engage with our schools. BASF supported students at Thunderbolt Elementary during National Engineering Week with the development of a Kid's Science Lab and they donated school supplies. Sport Clips participated in West Chatham Elementary's Boosterthon Fun Run Day by bringing their mascot and shaving the PE teacher's head on site after students achieved their goal of receiving donations from all 50 states! The owner of the Marshall House annually kicks off "Logistics Week" at Groves High School with career development understating in the Logistics Pathway to illustrate that logistics is everywhere – even in the hotel business. This partner also sponsored a Logistics Meet and Greet, hosted a downtown tour this past year for "Ladies of Logistics", and hosted a luncheon with two prominent "Women in Industry."

Many times it's simply helping to provide for basic needs that provides an impact with our schools and students. CSX Railroad helped clean the garden area at West Chatham Elementary. Home Depot provided a number of our schools with materials and labor to spruce up facilities. The Skidaway Island Rotary Club annually sponsors the DeRenne Middle School Career Fair. Dozens of groups provide backpacks of food to families in need throughout our district. Amerigroup came out for the High School Transition parent meeting at Hubert Middle School.

These partnerships illustrate the many connections and positive partnerships generated by our schools within the community. These connections are formed through the hard work of the staff and faculty at our schools and nurtured through the rewards reaped by students and those who engage with them throughout the school year.

The following pages list the number business partners by school for the 2015-16 school year.

**Table 1: Elementary Schools**

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>No. of Partners</b>	<b>Partnership Categories Include:</b>
Bloomingtondale	8	Goods & services
Brock	7	Goods & services, civic partners
Butler	26	Goods & Services, volunteers, civic partners
Gadsden	24	Volunteers, goods & services
Garden City	6	Volunteers, goods & services, career exploration
Gould	5	Goods and services, civic partners
Haven	8	Goods & Services, volunteers, civic partners
Heard	8	Volunteers, civic partners
Hodge	5	Civic partners, career exploration
Howard	14	Volunteers, goods & services, Career exploration
Largo-Tibet	8	Volunteers, goods & services, civic partners
Low	6	Goods & services, volunteers
Marshpoint	20	Volunteers, goods & services, civic partners
Pooler	21	Volunteers, goods & services, career exploration, civic partners
Port Wentworth	26	Goods & services, volunteers, civic partners
Pulaski	7	Goods & Services, volunteers
Shuman	14	Volunteers, goods & services,
J.G. Smith	14	Volunteers, goods & services
Southwest	6	Goods & services, volunteers
Spencer	5	Goods & services, volunteers
Thunderbolt	8	Volunteers, goods & services, career exploration
West Chatham	15	Volunteers, goods & services
White Bluff	5	Goods & services
Windsor Forest	9	Goods & services

**Table 2: K-8 Schools**

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>No. of Partners</b>	<b>Partnership Categories Include:</b>
East Broad	7	Goods & services, volunteers, civic partnerships
Charles Ellis	7	Volunteers, goods & services
Georgetown	13	Goods & services, volunteers, civic partnerships, career exploration
Godley Station	7	Volunteers, civic partners
Garrison	31	Volunteer, civic partners, goods & services
Hesse	7	Goods & services
Isle of Hope	12	Volunteers, goods & services, career exploration
Rice Creek	7	Civic partners, goods & services

**Table 3: Middle Schools**

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>No. of Partners</b>	<b>Partnership Categories Include:</b>
Coastal	7	Goods & services, civic partners
Derenne	16	Volunteers, goods & services
Hubert	8	Volunteers, college and career exploration
Mercer	2	Goods & services, civic partners
Myers	7	Volunteers, college exploration
Southwest	4	Goods & services, civic partners, volunteers
STEM Academy at Bartlett	16	Volunteers, goods & services, career exploration
West Chatham	12	Volunteers, goods & services

**Table 4: High Schools**

SCHOOL	No. of Partners	Partnership Categories Include:
Beach	12	Volunteers, goods & services, civic partners, career exploration
Groves	10	Goods & services, career exploration
Islands	5	Goods & services
Jenkins	16	Goods & services, civic partners, career exploration
Johnson	38	Goods & services, civic projects, volunteers, career awareness
School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High	5	Volunteers, civic partners, career & college exploration
New Hampstead	21	Goods & services, civic partners
Savannah Arts Academy	9	Volunteer, goods & services, career & college awareness
Savannah Early College	7	Volunteers, civic partners, career & college exploration
Windsor Forest	12	Volunteers, goods & services
Woodville Tompkins	9	Volunteers, goods & services, career preparation

**Table 5: Charter and Other Educational Centers** (Includes Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Academy as "Other Educational Center")

SCHOOL	No. of Partners	Partnership Categories Include:
Coastal Empire Montessori (No information provided)	X	X
Coastal Ga. Comp. Academy	5	Goods & services
Oglethorpe Charter	6	Civic partners, goods & services
Savannah Classical Academy (No information provided)	X	X
Tybee Maritime Academy	8	Civic partners, goods & services