

District Accountability System Goal 3, Objective C.1

School and District Partnership Events

Superintendent's Note – June 2016

Goal 3, Objective C.1 of the District Accountability System tracks the percentage of schools that conduct one or more partnership events with external stakeholders, and the number of annual district-wide partnership events. These events serve as a key means of promoting the relationship between the district and its partners. The goal is for every school to have at least one annual partnership event and for the District to maintain at least five annual district-wide partnership events to better engage stakeholders and support the teaching and learning process.

School outreach events – widely varied in scope – provide everything from fundraising opportunities and school improvement work, to career, education, and community information and assistance for students and their families. Events often provided a residual benefit for local organizations to showcase their services and further expand their connections with families who benefit greatly from their work. See data in tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. In total, more than 400 events were held with external stakeholders in the 2015-16 school year with 100% of the schools attaining this goal (Excluding Charter for non-response). The District level requirement was also achieved in this goal.

The events held this past school year included venues such as Cann Park Information Session held at Beach High, a Kiss a Pig fundraiser held at Bloomingdale Elementary, and a 6th Grade Basketball Club hosted at Coastal Middle. While school outreach is a key component in this category, the majority of schools report that external stakeholders frequently approach their school with ideas for partnership events.

Other partnership events are often focused on the arts in this community. St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Skidaway Island funds an after-school music program called "The Music Academy" for our schools. All middle and high school grade levels participate in the Savannah Chapter of the "Links" annual "New Beginning Youth Art Exhibit" in partnership with the Black Heritage Festival. Savannah Arts Academy has a number of partnerships with external stakeholders like SCAD, LifeBridge Church and local fashion experts who assist each year with their annual "Junk to Funk" Fashion Show. This experience gives students in various disciplines the opportunity to work with professionals on an event that draws community stakeholders to the school to see student work on display.

In many cases, partnership events with external stakeholders in business or post-secondary institutions included career and education fairs to provide our students with information they need to achieve their goals in career and college readiness. In other

cases – the schools partnered with external stakeholders to host events on school grounds that further their connection with the surrounding community and strengthened relationships with our neighbors. Some strong examples of deep neighborhood connections include Islands High School hosting the Wilmington Island Farmer’s Market each weekend and some of our schools hosting Parent University sessions for the community.

SCCPSS also hosts around a dozen district-wide events each year providing benefits that promote educational opportunities for students and staff to networking opportunities for community organizations that provide connections with district leadership. A great example of such networking happens each year at our annual Business Partner Appreciation Event. This venue invites our community partners to an evening at Oatland Island and allows them to connect not only with each other but with our school and district leaders. They have the opportunity to get to know one another in a casual, fun filled atmosphere and learn more about what each can offer in a partnership.

Just as in our schools – it’s often members of the community themselves who approach our district with ideas for partnering on programs and events. For example, one local pastor is spearheading the “Adopt-a-School” program in our district – working to bring other local churches into the group to find area partners for our schools. The group immediately kicked off their work with a “Teacher Appreciation” event at Spencer Elementary to culminate the end of the 2015-16 school year. Adopt-a-School seeks to adopt more schools in the coming 2016-17 school year. A similar effort is being made with the resurrection of the “Communities in Schools” organization – a group dedicated to working with our schools who have students struggling with academic achievement. Their focus is to provide mentorship and events that will reward and incentivize academic progress. These groups are starting with one school each with the goal of expanding to a greater number district-wide in 2016-17.

Some other examples of district-wide partnership events include the donation of recycled office supplies and free or discounted shredding offered for our teachers by the File Depot, Type 1 Diabetes Awareness Week events held in collaboration with Memorial Health, and a tour of new facilities given to members of the Chatham Retired Educator’s Association to encourage these former teachers to volunteer.

New opportunities are offered on a regular basis and the district works to embrace the opportunity with new partners as they align with our goals. New in school year 2015-16 the Atlanta Falcons organization offered the NFL FLAG Essentials program to Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. Over 40 Elementary Physical Education Instructors from SCCPSS and surrounding districts met at Jenkins High School for a day of learning the NFL FLAG Curriculum. All were provided a kit including footballs, flag belts, posters and a PE curriculum intended to get results in persuading students to be more physically active. The event was interactive with staff and provided a fun, rewarding way to engage and inspire.

All of these events provide educational opportunities for our students that they likely would not have had without the involvement of our external stakeholders. The examples that have been provided give insight into the exciting partnerships that are formed and sustained each year. The following pages list the number and type of events held in collaboration with external stakeholders by school for the 2015-16 school year.

Table 1: Elementary Schools

SCHOOL	No. of Partnership Events	Event Categories Include:
Bloomingtondale	7	Donation drive functions, fundraisers, entertainment/education connections
Brock	8	Community info session
Butler	5	Entertainment/educational connections
Gadsden	10	Community info sessions, donation drive, career/education fairs
Garden City	12	Entertainment/education connections, education info sessions, donation drives,
Gould	4	Fundraising, community info sessions, entertainment/educational connections
Haven	8	Fundraising, education info sessions,
Heard	4	Education info sessions, entertainment/educational connections
Hodge	4	Career/education fairs, entertainment/educational connections
Howard	14	Entertainment/educational connections
Largo-Tibet	4	Donation drive, education info sessions, community info sessions
Low	5	Donation drive, education info sessions
Marshpoint	10	Fundraisers, education info sessions, donation drive,

		community info sessions, hosting community athletic events
Pooler	14	Education info sessions, fundraising, entertainment events
Port Wentworth	5	Education info sessions, donation drives
Pulaski	3	Community info sessions,
Shuman	7	Entertainment/education connections, community info sessions
J.G. Smith	7	Entertainment/education connections, education info sessions, fundraiser
Southwest	1	Educational
Spencer	7	Donations drive, community information sessions, fundraiser/improvement drive, entertainment/education connections
Thunderbolt	6	Career/education fair, education info sessions, fundraising/improvement
West Chatham	6	Entertainment/education connections, donation/improvement drive, community info session
White Bluff	3	Entertainment/education connections, fundraisers
Windsor Forest	3	Entertainment/education connections, community info sessions

Table 2: K-8 Schools

SCHOOL	No. of Partnership Events	Event Categories Include:
East Broad	6	Entertainment/education connections, education info sessions
Charles Ellis	4	Entertainment/education connections, education info sessions
Georgetown	3	Education info sessions, fundraisers, community info sessions

Godley Station	5	Entertainment/education connections, host community athletic events, fundraising
Garrison	10	Entertainment/education connections
Hesse	5	Fundraising, community info session, entertainment/education connections
Isle of Hope	5	Education info sessions, entertainment/education connections
Rice Creek	8	Community info sessions, entertainment/education connections

Table 3: Middle Schools

SCHOOL	No. of Partnership Events	Event Categories Include:
Coastal	8	Fundraisers, entertainment/educational connections
Derenne	9	Entertainment/educational connections, career/education fairs, community education forums
Hubert	5	Career/education fair, community info sessions
Mercer	2	Education info sessions, fundraising/improvement
Myers	47	Fundraising, career/education fairs, education info sessions
Southwest	5	Community info sessions, education info sessions, entertainment/education connections
STEM Academy at Bartlett	35	Education info sessions, entertainment/education connections, advisory boards
West Chatham	5	Hosted community athletic events, community info sessions, fundraisers, donation/improvement drives

Table 4: High Schools

SCHOOL	No. of Partnership Events	Event Categories Include:
Beach	10	Education info sessions, community info sessions, career/education fair, entertainment/education connections
Groves	7	Career/education fairs, community info sessions, education info sessions
Islands	20	Community info sessions, entertainment/education connections, host community athletic events
Jenkins	4	Career/education fair, entertainment/education connections
Johnson	4	Career/education fairs
School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High	15	Career/education fairs, education info sessions, hosted advisory boards
New Hampstead	2	Community info sessions, entertainment/education connections
Savannah Arts Academy	4	Entertainment/education connections, fundraising/improvement drive, education info sessions
Savannah Early College	14	Education information sessions, community education sessions, career/education fairs
Windsor Forest	13	Career/education fairs, entertainment/education connections, community info sessions
Woodville Tompkins	10	Career/education fairs, workshops

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

SCHOOL	No. of Partnership Events	Event Categories Include:
Coastal Empire Montessori Charter	4	Entertainment/educational connections, community info forum, education info sessions
Coastal Ga. Comp. Academy	2	Donation drive functions
Oglethorpe Charter	20	No categorical information provided
Savannah Classical Academy Charter	X	No response provided
Tybee Maritime Academy Charter	X	No response provided

Table 6: District Level

DISTRICT LEVEL	No. of Partnership Events	Event Categories Include:
Communications, CTAE, Academic Affairs, Title I	12	Educational, Recognition, Entertainment/Promotional, Informational, Career/education fairs