



**District Accountability Plan Goal 4, Objective B  
Engaging the Business Community  
Annual Report – June 2011  
Executive Summary**

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System has been proactive and inventive in recruiting business partners to support our schools. Although the current economic climate could have impeded growth in this area, a targeted focus netted positive results.

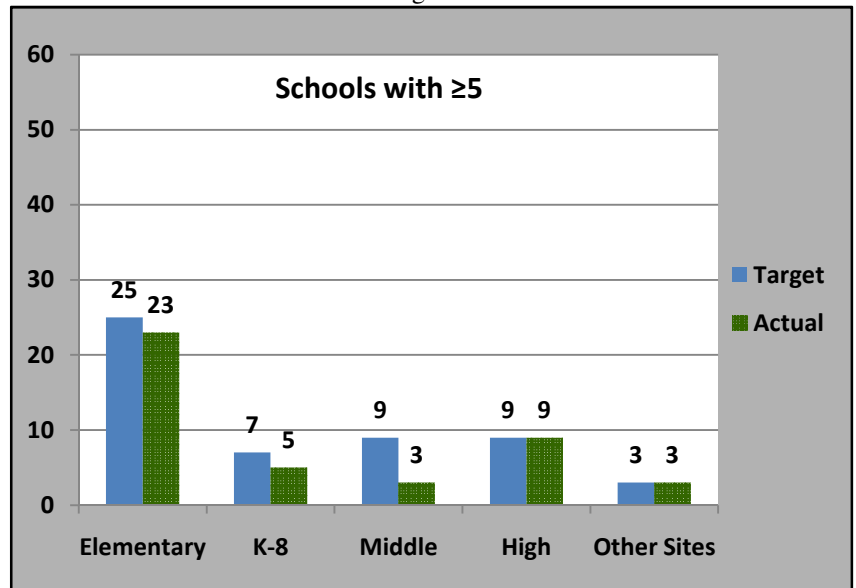
Objective 4B of the District Accountability System states that all schools will have **five** or more business partnerships by school year 2012. This goal is attainable and within reach, as **43** schools were supported by five or more business partners during the 2010-2011 school year. This is an increase of 38 percent from last year’s attainment of 31 schools. The district is ten schools away from reaching the target. A detailed breakdown can be seen on figure 1.

A total of **648** business partner relationships were formed or maintained across the district, an increase of 80 percent from last year. Many of these partnerships were a result of the outreach efforts performed by both school staff and the Public Information & Community Engagement Office.

Johnson High School boasts the highest number of business partners to date, with a total of 46. Johnson High School has been extremely creative in recruiting business partners, engaging with banks, realtors, media, and even a marina. West Chatham Elementary School also continues to be a leader in recruiting business partners. The top recruiter last year, this year West Chatham Elementary remains strong with 32 business partnerships. Jacob G. Smith Elementary School was the third highest recruiter for the year, supported by 21 businesses. Many of the new or transitioned schools also achieved stellar results. Godley Station School recruited 19 business partners, Isle of Hope School recruited 16 business partners, and the Esther F. Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts recruited 15 business partners. Hubert Middle School continues to gain business partners and show innovation through its Middle School Career Fair. In its fourth year, this event brought in a barber shop and an optometrist/retailer to demonstrate various professional skill sets. Hubert Middle School had 10 business partners for the year, the highest number among the middle schools. See Tables 1,2,3,4, and 5 for individual school results.

Many partnerships have been diverse and creative in engaging and supporting the district’s schools. McDonald’s, Parkers, and Wells Fargo have reached out to their neighborhood schools to sponsor events and campaigns such as “McTeacher’s Night”, “Fueling the Community”, and “Hands on Banking”. The Savannah Music Festival Workshops have enhanced music education by providing a different beat for elementary school students through exposure to various genres of music. The Sand Gnats Baseball Team worked with high school students to develop basic skills and fundamentals of the game. The effort targeted character traits, discipline, and team building experiences.

Figure 1



Through the coordination of the Office of Public Information & Community Engagement, fifth-graders at Windsor Forest Elementary School engaged with BRPH, an architecture and engineering design firm. These students discovered how a school construction site connects to the subjects they study in the classroom. Real world applications of science, engineering, and technology were showcased at the site.

In addition to the 648 business partnerships within our schools, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System was supported by more than 40 partners for district-wide events during school year 2010-2011. AVIA Hotel, Barnett Educational Supplies, Prosys, and Savannah Schools Federal Credit Union, were a few of the business partners that supported district events.

Looking ahead to all schools achieving the goal, the Office of Public Information & Community Engagement will continue to utilize and enhance current creative strategies (the business partner postcard, the on-line business partner application, and speaking and networking events) while developing new ones. Other efforts, such as providing retention techniques to the schools, will be targeted to ensure the current level of support and growth is maintained. In addition, the newly formed Community Engagement Task Force will provide guidance in expanding business partner relationships that support academic achievement. The consistent focus and application of creative strategies, coupled with community collaboration, will ensure the district's goal of all schools supported by **five** or more business partners by the year 2012 is attained.

## 2010-2011 Business Partners Detailed Report

Table 1

### Elementary Schools

School	Number of Business Partners	Met Target
Bartow	5	Yes
Bloomingtondale	12	Yes
Butler	10	Yes
Coastal Empire Montessori	1	No
Gadsden	11	Yes
Garden City	6	Yes
Gould	6	Yes
Haven	1	No
Heard	13	Yes
Hodge	6	Yes
Howard	16	Yes
Largo-Tibet	16	Yes
Low	10	Yes
Marshpoint	14	Yes
Pooler	9	Yes
Port Wentworth	11	Yes
Pulaski	5	Yes
Shuman	8	Yes
J.G. Smith	21	Yes
Southwest	6	Yes
Spencer	5	Yes
Thunderbolt	16	Yes
West Chatham	32	Yes
White Bluff	7	Yes
Windsor Forest	6	Yes

Table 2

## K-8 Schools

School	Number of Business Partners	Met Target
East Broad	4	No
Charles Ellis	5	Yes
Georgetown	10	Yes
Godley Station	19	Yes
Garrison	15	Yes
Hesse	4	No
Isle of Hope	16	Yes

Table 3

## Middle Schools

School	Number of Business Partners	Met Target
Bartlett	3	No
Coastal	4	No
DeRenne	3	No
Hubert	10	Yes
Mercer	9	Yes
Myers	1	No
Oglethorpe Charter	4	No
Southwest	3	No
West Chatham	6	Yes

Table 4

## High Schools

School	Number of Business Partners	Met Target
Beach	30	Yes
Groves	24	Yes
Islands	23	Yes
Jenkins	21	Yes
Johnson	46	Yes
Savannah Arts	20	Yes
Savannah High-LCJ	18	Yes
Savannah High-LS	22	Yes
Windsor Forest	20	Yes

Table 5

## Other Sites

School	Number of Business Partners	Met Target
Early College	26	Yes
Scott	15	Yes
Woodville-Tompkins	14	Yes