



District Accountability System Goal 4, Objective B
Business Partnerships
Annual Report – August 2012
Executive Summary

The purpose of the District Accountability System's Goal 4, Objective B is to increase the number and value of business partnerships. For school year 2014, all schools will have 5 or more business partnerships that demonstrate a quality relationship that advances the education of our students. The Administration shall provide a written report on the on the number of business partnerships by school.

Business partnerships have remained strong throughout the district. Schools continue to gain the benefit of this objective in the form of resources, financial donations, and career awareness opportunities for students. Business organizations in both the public and private sector throughout Chatham County have provided enriching experiences that not only engage students, but allow the community an opportunity to become a part of the schoolhouse. These relationships pay dividends in the development of a positive educational environment that contributes to the betterment of a quality workforce and supports successful graduates who are fully prepared for post secondary endeavors.

During the 2011-2012 school year 36 schools met the target. West Chatham Elementary created more partnerships than any other school with 37 business partners. See data listed by school in tables 1, 2, 3, and 4. In total, 427 Business Partner relationships were formed or maintained throughout the district.

Schools were actively engaged in ways that often brought business members into the school. Many business leaders served on school councils or made visits to classrooms to speak about their industry or career. At Shuman Elementary, John Katz of the Savannah Sand Gnats would spend an hour every Thursday in a classroom reading with students. His rewards program provided a great incentive by offering Sand Gnat game tickets as a way to encourage students to read Accelerated Reading books. In contrast, these partnerships also provided the opportunity for educators to expand their connections beyond the walls of the classroom. At Hubert Middle students gained the benefit of tours organized by JCB that made direct connections to the school's engineering program, Johnson High School students visited the studios of WTOG-TV to gain an understanding of broadcast production, and students from Savannah High visited the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department for a greater understanding of the opportunities that align within the Law & Criminal Justice pathway.

Businesses were quick to provide their resources to support student incentive programs, financial donations or staff appreciation events. At Godley Station Kelly Tours provided breakfast donations in appreciation of faculty and staff, Frames N' Games offered incentives for students at Port Wentworth Elementary, and Chick-Fil-A donated a portion of proceeds to Jacob G. Smith during their sponsored "School Night". Other effective partnerships provided incentives for parents, generated resources to support school beautification projects, supported grant initiatives, and offered internships or various hands on experiences for students.

It is also important to take note of the partners who provide resources to our schools in a district-wide capacity. BB&T Bank's *Lighthouse Project* provided over 20 brand new school

uniforms to students from various schools throughout the district, Hargray Wireless donated 200 gift cards for school supplies valued at \$50 dollars each, Georgia Power continues to provide a sponsorship that supports the Student Success Expo, the *1 Cent Wednesday* program at Parker's Convenience Stores generated a \$2,500 donation, and the Savannah Theatre provided entertainment and venue space at no charge to support a Teacher of the Year fundraising program.

Gulfstream continues to play a major role as a valued business partner. The company works directly with many schools, supports the Student Leadership Program, and is deeply involved with the Career Advisory Council. In addition to these activities, leaders were instrumental in the launch of a *School to Business Connections* venue that was designed to generate partnership leads with businesses who are members of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce.

The partnerships mentioned provide examples of the many connections our schools have with the business community. It is no secret that a thriving community is representative of an effective educational system that is deeply connected to the neighborhoods it serves and the businesses who rely on a quality workforce. It is critical that education and business leaders create meaningful, long lasting partnerships designed to support all youth in a way that ensures each and every student is ready for college, work, and life. With venues such as the *School to Business Connections*, the usage of technology to bring schools and businesses together, and the sustained commitment from all schools, SCCPSS will reap the benefit of this goal providing an enriched educational environment for all students.

Table 1: **Elementary Schools**

School	Achieved Target?	Number of Business Partners
Bartow	Yes	6
Bloomingtondale	Yes	9
Butler	Yes	7
Coastal Empire Montessori	No	0
Gadsden	Yes	11
Garden City	Yes	6
Gould	Yes	8
Haven	Yes	5
Heard	Yes	7
Hodge	No	0
Howard	Yes	11
Largo-Tibet	Yes	13
Low	No	4
Marshpoint	Yes	13
Pooler	Yes	8
Port Wentworth	Yes	20
Pulaski	Yes	5
Shuman	Yes	25

J.G. Smith	Yes	11
Southwest	Yes	7
Spencer	Yes	10
Thunderbolt	Yes	21
West Chatham	Yes	37
White Bluff	No	2
Windsor Forest	No	3

Table 2: **K-8 Schools**

School	Achieved Target?	Number of Business Partners
East Broad	No	3
Charles Ellis	Yes	5
Georgetown	No	4
Godley Station	Yes	14
Garrison	Yes	5
Hesse	No	4
Isle of Hope	Yes	14

Table 3: **Middle Schools**

School	Achieved Target?	Number of Business Partners
Bartlett	Yes	13
Coastal	No	4
DeRenne	No	4
Hubert	Yes	6
Mercer	Yes	7
Myers	No	4
Oglethorpe	Yes	6
Southwest	No	3
West Chatham	Yes	5

Table 4: **High Schools**

School	Achieved Target?	Number of Business Partners
Beach	No	4
Groves	Yes	13
Islands	Yes	8
Jenkins	Yes	12
Johnson	Yes	12
Savannah Arts	Yes	9
Savannah High	Yes	8
Windsor Forest	No	3
Woodville-Tompkins	Yes	8