



District Accountability System Goal 4, Objective B
Business Partnerships
Annual Report – August 2013
Executive Summary

The purpose of the District Accountability System's Goal 4, Objective B, is to increase the number and value of business partnerships. The target related to this objective seeks to attain five or more business partnerships at every school throughout the district. The administration shall provide a written report on the number of business partnerships by school.

Staying connected with area businesses will foster relationships that improve our schools, provide opportunity for students, and help to bolster workforce development. 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.

Business organizations in both the public and private sector throughout Chatham County have been supportive through partnerships that not only provide valued resources for our schools, but engage students in a way that helps them gain a greater understating of real-world careers and life after high school. These relationships continue to support the growth of a positive educational environment where successful graduates are fully prepared for post secondary endeavors.

During the 2012-2013 school year, 48 schools met the goal. This represents an increase of 12 schools compared to the 2011-2012 school year. See data listed by school in tables 1, 2, 3, and 4. In total, 469 business partner relationships were formed or maintained throughout the district.

Businesses were often engaged with our schools through mentoring, offering donations, or participating in career awareness activities. At Bartow Elementary Gulfstream provided instructional workshops related to aviation, and International Paper made school supply donations for students. Teachers have also benefited from their generosity by receiving copy paper and other materials. In school year 2012-13, Applebee's Restaurant was a newly acquired business partner for Pulaski Elementary. The restaurant sponsored a "Dining to Donate" event that would raise funds to support a fifth grade field trip. The partner supplied incentives and award certificates for students who performed well academically, and for those who were caught modeling good character. At Godley Station K-8 McClain's Shallow Wells, an area landscaping and well water drilling company, donated Newspapers in Education to teachers at the school. The newspapers were used creatively in the classroom as a tool that would enrich literacy instruction. Home Depot provided plants, shrubs, and planters as a donation that would give Godley Station a beautiful outdoor garden classroom.

Business partners were quick to assist with resources that would support incentive programs, field trips, financial and material donations, and staff appreciation events. At Georgetown K-8, the Georgetown True Value store donated supplies for school performances, competitions, and art projects, and Brassler, USA, donated funds to pay for the transportation cost associated with trips for the school chorus. The business also proudly displays student art work. At Southwest Middle Zaxby's restaurant provided refreshments for Teacher Appreciation events held at the school and Costanzo's Pizza provided pizza for students who attended the school's summer writing camp. The Jacob G. Smith business partner, TailsSpin, donated \$6,900 dollars to the school to support reading based initiatives that allowed for the implementation of an Accelerated Reader program, and two-way radio communication devices were also purchased with these funds in an effort to enhance security measures through improved staff communication.

It is also important to make note of the partners who work with our schools in a district-wide capacity. While Gulfstream launched the Student Leadership Program, numerous business partners participate each year at various leadership events by donating venue space, food, volunteers, and community advisors. Georgia Power remains a key sponsor of the Student Success Expo, and one of the company representatives serves as the co-chair for the CTAE's Career Advisory Council. This council is comprised of 53 business representatives who donate their time to plan and support the annual expo. Each year, with the support of these valued partners, the event has grown in size and provided a premiere community venue that informs parents of the many academic opportunities found throughout our school district. In school year 2012-13 the Maritime Logistics Education Taskforce partnered with Savannah-Chatham Schools to launch an industry specific internship program for high school students. The group is made up of area professionals who represent 10 companies that operate primarily in the logistics industry. Through this partnership, students gain the opportunity to learn and train in the processes of logistics, supply chain management, and warehousing.

The partnerships mentioned provide examples of the many connections our schools have with the business community. While the 2014 target has not yet been attained, the amount of schools making the goal has increased. As changes in business leadership and compressed resources contribute to challenges in partnership development, our district will seek to develop creative alternatives that bring businesses into the school in a way that fits their available resources. This approach, coupled with a targeted focus on schools where the target was not met, will provide a positive impact in the attainment of the 2014 target.

Table 1: **Elementary Schools**

School	Achieved Target?	Number of Business Partners
Bartow	Yes	7
Bloomingtondale	Yes	7
Butler	Yes	17
Coastal Empire Montessori	Yes	15

Gadsden	Yes	17
Garden City	Yes	5
Gould	Yes	13
Haven	Yes	5
Heard	Yes	5
Hodge	Yes	6
Howard	Yes	9
Largo-Tibet	Yes	21
Low	Yes	5
Marshpoint	Yes	18
Pooler	Yes	5
Port Wentworth	Yes	23
Pulaski	Yes	5
Shuman	Yes	5
J.G. Smith	Yes	6
Southwest	Yes	7
Spencer	Yes	9
Thunderbolt	Yes	6
West Chatham	Yes	40
White Bluff	Yes	5
Windsor Forest	Yes	6

Table 2: **K-8 Schools**

School	Achieved Target?	Number of Business Partners
East Broad	Yes	6
Charles Ellis	Yes	10
Georgetown	Yes	7
Godley Station	Yes	17
Garrison	Yes	12
Hesse	Yes	8
Isle of Hope	Yes	15

Table 3: **Middle Schools**

School	Achieved Target?	Number of Business Partners
Bartlett	Yes	8
Coastal	Yes	6
DeRenne	No	2
Hubert	Yes	5
Mercer	Yes	6
Myers	Yes	5
Oglethorpe	No	3
Southwest	Yes	5
West Chatham	Yes	9

Table 4: **High Schools**

School	Achieved Target?	Number of Business Partners
Beach	Yes	7
Groves	Yes	9
Islands	Yes	7
Jenkins	Yes	9
Johnson	Yes	11
New Hampstead	Yes	13
Savannah Arts	Yes	6
Savannah High	Yes	6
Windsor Forest	No	3
Woodville-Tompkins	Yes	7