



District Accountability System Goal 4, Objective B Engaging the Community Executive Summary – August 2014

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

Business and community organizations in both the public and private sector throughout Chatham County have been supportive through partnerships that not only provide valued donations for our schools, but engage students to help 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 graduates are fully prepared for college or a career.

Our community partners were often engaged with our schools as a volunteer, through donations, or by participating in career awareness activities. During the 2013-2014 school year, 51 schools met the objective. This represents an increase of 3 schools compared to the 2012-2013 school year and puts the district just 2 schools from the target. See data listed by school in tables 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. In total, 573 community partners contributed to our success in the 2014 School Year.

Across the school district, partners found creative ways to reach students and engage with our schools. For example, students of Hodge Elementary and May Howard Elementary forged partnerships with the Savannah Bee Company and the *Bee Cause Project* to bring Honey Bee Observational Hives into the school. Schools were able to capitalize on the student interest generated through the observational hive with science, writing, and project based learning opportunities. Also, many business partners were quick to develop relationships through the donations they provided. Often these donations made for great incentives that motivated students or provided a morale boost for staff. At Godley Station, World of Fitness partnered with the school to develop a student incentive program that provided rewards for those attending a writing camp. Through this partnership, students were motivated with the chance to win a new bike or skateboard. In the spirit of increased vocabulary and stronger writing skills, the Skidaway Island Rotary Club provided dictionaries to all sixth grade students at DeRenne Middle. Applebee's Restaurant, a business partner with West Chatham Elementary, showed its support and appreciation for educators by providing lunch for staff members of the school.

Partnerships were also formed that brought volunteers or mentors into the schools. Some of these venues created special events or utilized creative initiatives to reach students. The Pooler First Baptist Church sponsored Movie Night and offered school volunteers for Pooler Elementary. At Georgetown K-8, the *Barking for Books* program proved to be a popular partnership that helped struggling readers gain confidence when reading out loud. The program

would bring a therapy dog into the school for a special visit that would have students reading to their new four-legged friend. Spencer Elementary partnered with Armstrong as a part of the *Each One Teach One* program. Through this partnership, elementary age students were able to forge connections with college students that provided learning assistance and tutoring in mathematics. At Shuman Elementary, student well-being would become a key focus area through a partnership with Savannah Hearing that brought hearing and vision screenings to students.

Other partners provided a focus on career readiness. At the STEM Academy, members from Spatial Engineering worked to provide career training in the field of Geographic Information Systems. Savannah Law School developed a partnership with the School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High to work with students of the Law and Criminal Justice Program. The group was also instrumental in providing a real world experience for area high school debate teams who participated in the mock *Brown v. Board of Education* debate that was conducted in the school's courtroom. At Beach High School, the South Atlantic Medical Association provided career training and mentoring for students of the Medical Allied Pathway.

It is also important to make note of the partners who work with our schools in a district-wide capacity. In Gulfstream's continued 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 annual Student Success Expo, and one of the company representatives serves as the co-chair for the SCCPSS Career Advisory Council. In school year 13-14 the Maritime Logistics Education Taskforce entered year two of a partnership that would place students from area high schools in industry specific internships. Comcast partnered with SCCPSS for the first-ever *Digital Literacy* event that brought parents to an educational venue filled with prize giveaways and information about the educational technology offered in our schools and community. The 2014 school year also saw the very first SCCPSS Student Job Fair. This district event brought in a host of businesses and community partners who were eager to provide career information and summer job opportunities for all high school students.

These partnerships provide examples of the many connections generated within the community. Through the hard work of the staff and faculty at our schools, and the commitment of our community partners, SCCPSS is just two schools from reaching this target. With special events that capitalize on the recruitment of new community partners and increased awareness that showcases the value and importance of these partnerships, schools will continue to reap the benefit of this key community engagement component.

Table 1: **Elementary Schools**

| School | Number of Partners | Partnership Categories Include: |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| Brock | 8 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |
| Bloomingtondale | 11 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Health & Wellness, School Safety |
| Butler | 20 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Health & Wellness |
| Gadsden | 13 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |
| Garden City | 12 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Gould | 15 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Haven | 5 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Heard | 9 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Hodge | 11 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Howard | 7 | Goods & Services, Civic Service, Advisory Role |
| Largo-Tibet | 7 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Low | 6 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Marshpoint | 13 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Pooler | 8 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Port Wentworth | 27 | Good & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |
| Pulaski | 6 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Shuman | 6 | Good & Services, Volunteers |
| J.G. Smith | 13 | Goods & Services, Civic Service, Volunteers |
| Southwest | 5 | Goods & Services |
| Spencer | 5 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Thunderbolt | 8 | Good & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |
| West Chatham | 34 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| White Bluff | 5 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Windsor Forest | 5 | Good & Services |

Table 2: **K-8 Schools**

| School | Number of Partners | Partnership Categories Include: |
|----------------|--------------------|---|
| East Broad | 9 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Ellis | 11 | Civic Partnership, Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Georgetown | 17 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Godley Station | 16 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Garrison | 14 | Good & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |
| Hesse | 21 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Isle of Hope | 8 | Good & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |

Table 3: **Middle Schools**

| School | Number of Partners | Partnership Categories Include: |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|
| STEM Academy at Bartlett | 16 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |
| Coastal | 5 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| DeRenne | 9 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Hubert | 1 | Good & Services |
| Mercer | 4 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Myers | 6 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Southwest | 5 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| West Chatham | 11 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |

Table 4: **High Schools**

| School | Number of Partners | Partnership Categories Include: |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Beach | 9 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness/Exploration |
| Groves | 8 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness/Exploration |
| Islands | 6 | Goods & Services, Career Awareness/Exploration |
| Jenkins | 25 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness/Exploration |
| Johnson | 34 | Good & Services, Civic Projects, Career Awareness, Volunteers |
| New Hampstead | 13 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |
| Savannah Arts | 6 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness/Exploration |
| School of Liberal Studies at SHS | 6 | Goods & Services, Career Awareness/Exploration |
| Windsor Forest | 5 | Goods & Services, Volunteers |
| Woodville-Tompkins | 11 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career & College Awareness/Exploration |

Table 5: **Charter Schools**

| School | Number of Partners | Partnership Categories Include: |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Coastal Empire Montessori Charter | 20 | Civic Partnership, Career Awareness, Civic Service |
| Oglethorpe Charter | 5 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Health & Wellness |
| Savannah Classical Academy | 7 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Health & Wellness |
| Tybee Island Maritime Academy | 6 | Goods & Services, Volunteers, Career Awareness |