

# Definition of a Partnership

Partnerships are collaborative efforts to achieve mutually agreed upon goals and objectives by matching community resources to identified needs of the school system or individual school. In meeting these goals and objectives, school resources are also matched to the identified need of a particular partner such as a business, university or community group.

Typically, partnerships fall into one of these categories:

## **Sponsors**

The relationship with the school probably revolves around donations given once or twice a year. These are financial or “in-kind” donations and support a particular event.

## **District Partners**

District Partners provide assistance to schools throughout the district. This support can be financial contributions, “in-kind” donations, volunteer hours, internships, or expertise/advisory role in a particular area.

## **School Partners**

School Partners are relationships that are ongoing throughout the year and typically involve the entire school. Regular communication, mutual objectives and specific outcomes are part of these relationships. Recommitment is usually done each year. School Partners may want to provide money, manpower, materials or training, or serve on the Advisory Council, share knowledge or support programs or fundraising.

## **Classroom/Department Partners**

Classroom/Department Partners are relationships developed with one classroom/department by a small business, professional or community organization. Services and resources provided could include money, manpower, materials or training on a classroom or department level.

It is important to track, acknowledge and document all donations. Share this with the Community Involvement Department so that solicitation can be coordinated. There are often opportunities to promote the donors at the district level, therefore fostering the donor/school district relationship. The district also wants to acknowledge & recognize partners.