100 WAYS BUSINESSES CAN BE INVOLVED IN SCHOOLS

If the Goal is to...

Improve Student Performance / Increase Academic Achievement –

- Volunteer to read to young children, or have them read to you
- Tutor students in reading, writing, science or mathematics skills
- Involve students in projects that relate to your business or organization
- Use business resources to enhance instruction (personnel, equipment or materials)
- Provide incentives and recognize students for improvements in attendance, academics or behavior
- Showcase student artwork or science projects
- Acknowledge student achievement or school activities (in company newsletter)
- Provide curriculum-related speakers for classroom presentations or assemblies: state-of-the-art technology and information; real-life math problems, found in banking or retail businesses
- Invite students to join you in your involvement in community environmental issues
- Initiate environmental projects, such as recycling
- Provide subject-related technical assistance; be a technology mentor
- Teach time management to students working on projects
- Start or assist with a school newspaper or yearbook
- Print greeting cards prepared by students
- Provide access to computers
- Provide volunteers to instruct students on computers
- Allow students to design holiday cards or covers for annual reports
- Provide demonstrations of various artistic and technical skills
- Start an "employee talent bank" within your business; list employees with special talents or topics of interest to students
- Involve legal staff in mock classroom court cases

Increase Parent/Community Participation –

- Participate in school’s advisory council and PTA's or PTO’s
- Provide seminars or workshops to parent groups on consumer topics or parenting
- Provide speakers at parent meetings
- Print, or help sponsor, parent (PTA, PTO) newsletter
- Host a college information day, to advise students and parents on college opportunities
- Co-sponsor fundraising or community service projects
- Provide a preschool nursery for school functions
- Provide additional bilingual support
- Sponsor a Career Day for parents
- Encourage other parents to become involved in education
Build Career Awareness and Job Preparedness –
- Offer internship or employment opportunities for students
- Allow short-term job shadowing for students and/or teachers
- Serve as guest speaker on career awareness topics (interviewing, resumes)
- Participate on a career day, or a job fair
- Volunteer to instruct through Junior Achievement
- Host a store visit, or tour of business facility
- Be a career mentor
- Participate in career awareness activities (resume and job search techniques)
- Provide summer jobs, internships or part-time jobs for students
- Help develop a career lab
- Conduct mock interviews
- Conduct employability workshops on:
  - skills required for various jobs or careers
  - education required for various jobs/careers
  - job trends and salary ranges
  - employability skills
- Career development for nontraditional students
- Provide assistance to students starting an in-class or school-wide business:
  - discuss hiring, firing and advancement policies
  - explain inventory, production, ordering, marketing concepts
  - discuss small business loans and taxes
- Provide information to students on money and how to handle it; on checking accounts and credit

Be Involved in an Advisory Role / Encourage Innovation –
- Participate on a local School Advisory Council (determine needs and priorities, set goals and develop a strategic plan for the school)
- Help a school achieve community support for its school improvement plan
- Join PTA, PTO, or athletic board or school-to-work committee
- Participate on a curriculum committee or a District Committee
- Provide educational or curriculum support materials
- Offer marketing, public relations, computer or other consulting services to school or school district staff

Enhance the Learning Environment, Motivate, Dropout Prevention –
- Provide an adult role model for students (mentoring)
- Provide paid "release-time" for staff to volunteer in schools
- Participate in an after-school program
- Provide scholarships to students
Be involved in school beautification or other projects or events at school
Print school newspaper or other publications
Provide flexibility in work schedule, for parents and other workers to volunteer at schools
Serve as a judge for various school events
Host school-related meetings
Participate in sports activities with teachers and/or students
Provide self-esteem programs
Provide incentives, such as T-shirts, buttons, awards, certificates, etc., to students who have made the greatest improvement in achievement, attendance, or behavior
Identify potential dropouts to encourage their graduation from school
Take students to Chamber of Commerce or other business functions
Display picture of student(s) of the month and/or honor roll students
Display notices of school events, samples of student work or volunteer needs
Provide educational field trips and opportunities to expose students to a different environment
Provide bilingual support system

Faculty and Staff Development –
Invite teachers or administrators to attend in-house skills training seminars
Provide seminars for faculty or administrators
Provide guest speakers for faculty development workshops or parent meetings
 Recognize outstanding teachers, by issuing awards or certificates
Provide workshops on: alcoholism, substance abuse, gang awareness, stress management, time management, wellness programs
Make corporate management training available
Provide opportunities for advanced learning, particularly in areas of science and technology:
  o send teachers to conferences
  o provide internships, summer employment in field of study
  o provide awards for outstanding teachers
Participate in a faculty/employee talent show to raise money
Participate in special school projects, such as Teacher Appreciation Week
SAMPLE PARTNERSHIPS BY INDUSTRY

Also developed by Palm Beach’s Partners in Education, this list contains activities that can be initiated by specific types of businesses.

Financial Institutions
- Sponsor economic education projects
- Work with teachers to develop up-to-date curriculum for banking topics
- Provide tours
- Provide display space
- Support consumer education programs
- Provide curriculum materials on banking
- Provide publicity throughout community on school projects and activities

Food Management and Restaurants
- Sponsor incentives for citizenship, attendance, or scholarship
- Allow students to paint store windows or decorate for the holidays
- Display the student of the month
- Allow after-school clubs to periodically meet at the facility
- Provide special demonstrations
- Recognize outstanding teachers, administrators, and support personnel
- Provide matching incentives for school fundraising activities
- Provide motivational awards for student accomplishments
- Assist with school awards dinners for community volunteers

Hospitals and Health Organizations
- Sponsor seminars for faculty and students on topics such as CPR, First Aid, child care and health issues
- Sponsor seminars for parents and PTA groups
- Provide display space
- Provide audiovisual materials
- Use school personnel and students for mock emergency drills
- Provide student pen pals for patients on lengthy hospitalizations
- Participate in career fairs
- Participate in health fairs at schools
- Tutor in science and health-related courses
- Develop mentorships for gifted students
Media/Communications
- Participate in Newspapers in Education
- Program Provide layout assistance for school publications
- Present workshops for students on how to sell advertising for their publications
- Sponsor writing, public speaking and debate competition
- Help students produce a school news program to air on in-house video channel
- Develop a public relations campaign for education
- Assist school in reducing their printing costs

Law Enforcement / Government Agencies
- Sponsor student field studies
- Assist the school with its law-related education program
- Provide field studies to court, city hall, or jail
- Serve as judges for academic competition
- Allow journalism or debate students to interview employees or officials
- Sponsor an award for top government students or best debate students
- Participate in competitive events, field days with staff or students
- Develop violence prevention programs

Chambers of Commerce
- Participate in a Career Day
- Provide curriculum for consumer education
- Assist students with getting training in local businesses and subsequent employment
- Invite school system personnel to serve on the chamber's education committee
- Provide workshops for teachers to update their skills
- Sponsor student interns in leadership development
- Assist schools to obtain additional partners from the business committee

Civic Organizations
- Sponsor a service club
- Provide incentive awards or scholarships
- Serve on a school advisory committee
- Support a latchkey program

This list was formulated by the Palm Beach School District in Florida, which started a school-business partnership program called Partners in Education.