

# CAREER READY

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## 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

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## 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

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- 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:
  - send teachers to conferences
  - provide internships, summer employment in field of study
  - 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

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## 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

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## 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.*

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