

Check-in Guide: Building Strong Community School Partnerships

Alignment and Shared Leadership

This check-in guide is a quick tool designed to facilitate conversation about your partnership. It can be used to set expectations or to check-in on how a partnership is going. It includes select questions from various tools that are part of a comprehensive partnership toolkit available on the OUSD website. You can use them all or pick the questions that are most useful for your specific partnership and meeting.

Community School Partnership Assessment helps schools and partners establish, assess, and strengthen expectations. The indicators represent best practices for each type of partnership. Rate where your partnership is: Not Applicable (NA), Emerging (E), Developing (D) or Sustaining (S).

| CRITERIA | Specialized Partnership | Aligned Partnership | Core Partnership |
|--|--|---|---|
| Alignment of vision and goals | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner and school can identify one or more partner goals aligned with school vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner and site leadership discuss site vision and goals with opportunity for partner input during site planning <input type="checkbox"/> Partner and site can identify at least one partner outcome aligned with a priority of the school site plan (CSSSP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner and site leadership co-construct shared site vision and goals and are both accountable for implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Both are responsible for ensuring alignment of other partners to shared vision and goals |
| Participation in site decision-making | <input type="checkbox"/> School and partner have discussed site decision-making and decided on level of input/ participation | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner regularly provides feedback to school leadership body/committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner leads or co-leads a cross-agency school leadership body (COST, CSSSP, etc.) |

Guiding Questions to consider in creating lasting and meaningful partnerships:

1. How do our visions and missions align/ enhance/ support one another? (LOA p.1)

2. What are the primary goals, target population, and expected outcomes of the partnership and how does that fit the CSSSP? (LOA p.2)

3. How will the school and partner agency address needs that come up unexpectedly?

4. How will you give feedback to each other?

- 5. What structures can support shared decision-making? For example, is the partner represented on any of the school leadership structures, and is the school represented on any advisory body of the partner? For which types of decisions will the partner agency or school be at the table?

Next Steps to strengthen alignment and shared leadership:

- ✓ Take away's or A-ha's:

- ✓ Decisions made:

- ✓ Action steps:

| | Action/Next Step | Who | By When | Follow up – when/how? |
|---|------------------|-----|---------|-----------------------|
| 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |

Helpful Tips

- ✓ We often take for granted that schools and partner agencies are working toward the same end. While schools certainly care about the physical, social and emotional well-being of children and non-academic partner agencies want children to be successful in school, being specific about how each entity can support the goals of the other will help ensure that all are working toward the same end intentionally and effectively.