

AP 526 – COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Background

The Division supports educational partnerships and sponsorships between schools and business, and community organizations that:

- ◆ Enhance the quality and relevance of education for learners;
- ◆ Mutually benefit all partners;
- ◆ Ensure that all those involved in the partnership are treated fairly and equitably;
- ◆ Clearly define expectations, roles, and responsibilities for all partners;
- ◆ Are based on shared or aligned objectives that support the goals of both parties;
- ◆ Allocate resources and volunteer services to complement - not replace - public funding for education;
- ◆ Ensure that corporate image or business practices are not in conflict with Division procedures or foundational statements;
- ◆ Provide opportunities for all partners to share in the development of responsible citizens; and
- ◆ Do not require an exclusive endorsement of products or services.

Procedures

1. Partnership opportunities will be overseen by the Community Education Coordinator.
2. Partnership activities shall reflect Division and school priorities.
3. Participation in partnership activities shall be on a voluntary basis.
4. The Community Education Coordinator shall:
 - 4.1 Consult (when appropriate) with the School Community Council and staff in the identification, development, and implementation of educational partnerships; and
 - 4.2 Inform the Director of Education or designate of any proposed involvement in an educational partnership.
5. The Director or designate shall:
 - 5.1 Provide advice and assistance to schools to support the development of educational partnerships;
 - 5.2 Maintain records of Division and school partnerships; and

- 5.3 Serve as a contact for business and community organizations interested in partnering with the Division.

6. When a school or the Division enters into a partnership arrangement, the following should be considered:
 - 6.1 The partnership fosters acquisition of employability skills, intellectual growth and cultural or social awareness for students;
 - 6.2 The partnership is developed and structured in consultation with all partners;
 - 6.3 Partner organizations have a stated or written commitment to supporting public education;
 - 6.4 Each partner's expertise is recognized and respected;
 - 6.5 Defined roles, responsibilities and terms of the arrangement for all partners are identified;
 - 6.6 There is agreement to measure and evaluate partnership performance to make informed decisions that ensure continuous improvement; and
 - 6.7 Each partner's contribution is acknowledged and celebrated through appropriate forms of recognition.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109 Education Act