

Community Outreach for Involvement and Support: A Self-study Survey

Schools can do their job better when they are an integral and positive part of the community. For example, it is a truism that learning is neither limited to what is formally taught nor to time spent in classrooms. It occurs whenever and wherever the learner interacts with the surrounding environment. All facets of the community (not just the school) provide learning opportunities. *Anyone in the community who wants to facilitate learning might be a contributing teacher.* This includes aides, volunteers, parents, siblings, peers, mentors in the community, librarians, recreation staff, college students, etc. They all constitute what can be called *the teaching community*. When a school successfully joins with its surrounding community, everyone has the opportunity to learn and to teach.

Another key facet of community involvement is opening up school sites as places where parents, families, and other community residents can engage in learning, recreation, enrichment, and find services they need. This encompasses outreach to the community to collaborate to enhance the engagement of young people to directly strengthen youngsters, families, and neighborhoods. In this respect, increasing attention is paid to interventions to promote healthy development, resiliency, and assets.

For schools to be seen as an integral part of the community, outreach steps must be taken to create and maintain linkages and collaborations. The intent is to maximize mutual benefits, including better student progress, an enhanced sense of community, community development, and more. In the long run, the aims are to strengthen students, schools, families, and neighborhoods. Outreach focuses on public and private agencies, organizations, universities, colleges, and facilities; businesses and professional organizations and groups; and volunteer service programs, organizations, and clubs. Greater volunteerism on the part of parents, peers, and others from the community can break down barriers and increase home and community involvement in schools and schooling. Over time, this area can include systems and programs designed to (a) recruit a wide range of community involvement and support, (b) train, screen, and maintain volunteers, (c) reach out to students and families who don't come to school regularly – including truants and dropouts, (d) connect school and community efforts to promote child and youth development, and (e) enhance community-school connections and sense of community.

Indicate all items that apply.

Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
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A. From which of the following sources are participants recruited?

- [illegible]

1. mentoring for students and families
2. volunteer functions
3. a community resource pool that provides expertise as requested, such as

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

- >after school programs coming to the site
- >services programs providing direct access to referrals from the site
- >other (specify) _____

- >school governance
- >advocacy for the school
- >advisory functions
- >program planning
- >fund raising
- >sponsoring activity (e.g., adopt-a-school)
- >creating awards and incentives
- >providing job-shadowing opportunities
- >creating jobs
- >other (specify) _____

[illegible]

Community Outreach for Involvement and Support (cont.)

	Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
C. With specific respect to volunteers				
1. What types of volunteers are used at the site?				
>nonprofessionals				
>>parents	_____	_____	_____	_____
>>college students	_____	_____	_____	_____
>>senior citizens	_____	_____	_____	_____
>>business people	_____	_____	_____	_____
>>peer and cross age tutors	_____	_____	_____	_____
>>peer and cross age counselors	_____	_____	_____	_____
>>paraprofessionals	_____	_____	_____	_____
>professionals-in-training (specify) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
>professionals (pro bono) (specify) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
>other (specify) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Who do volunteers assist?				
>administrators	_____	_____	_____	_____
>assist teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____
>assist other staff	_____	_____	_____	_____
>others (specify) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. In which of the following ways do volunteers participate?				
>providing general classroom assistance	_____	_____	_____	_____
>assisting with targeted students	_____	_____	_____	_____
>assisting after school	_____	_____	_____	_____
>providing special tutoring	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping students with attention problems	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping with bilingual students	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping address other diversity matters	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping in the cafeteria	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping in the library	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping in computer lab	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping on class trips	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping with homework helplines	_____	_____	_____	_____
>working in the front office	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping welcome visitors	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping welcome new enrollees & their families	_____	_____	_____	_____
>phoning or emailing home about absences	_____	_____	_____	_____
>outreaching to the home	_____	_____	_____	_____
>acting as mentors or advocates for students, families, staff	_____	_____	_____	_____
>assisting with school up-keep and beautification efforts	_____	_____	_____	_____
>helping enhance public support by increasing political awareness about the contributions and needs of the school	_____	_____	_____	_____
>other (specify) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

II. Systems to Recruit, Screen, Prepare, and Maintain Community Resource Involvement

A. Are there systems and programs specifically designed to				
1. recruit community stakeholders?	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Orient and welcome community stakeholders who have been recruited for school involvement and support?	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. enhance the volunteer pool?	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. screen volunteers?	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. train volunteers?	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. maintain volunteers?	_____	_____	_____	_____

Community Outreach for Involvement and Support (cont.)

III. Reaching out to Students and Families Who Don't Come to School Regularly – Including Truants and Dropouts

Which of the following are used to enhance school involvement of hard to involve students and families

A. Home visits to assess and plan ways to overcome barriers to

1. student attendance

2. family involvement in schooling

B. Support networks connecting hard to involve

1. students with peers and mentors

2. families with peers and mentors

C. Special incentives for

1. students

2. families

D. Other (specify) _____

Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
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IV. Connecting School and Community Efforts to Promote Child and Youth Development and a Sense of Community

Which of the following are used to enhance community-school connections and sense of community?

A. Orientations and open houses for

1. newly arriving students

2. newly arriving families

3. new staff

B. student performances for the community

C. school sponsored

1. cultural and sports events for the community

2. community festivals and celebrations

3. topical workshops and discussion groups

4. health fairs

5. family preservation fairs

6. work fairs

D. Other? (specify) _____

Community Outreach for Involvement and Support (cont.)

	Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
V. Capacity Building to Enhance Community Involvement and Support				
A. Are there programs to enhance broad stakeholder involvement in enhancing community involvement and support?	_____	_____	_____	_____
B. With respect to programs used to meet the educational needs of personnel related to community involvement and support				
1. Is there ongoing training for learning supports staff with respect to enhancing community involvement and support?	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Is there ongoing training for others involved in enhancing community involvement and support? (e.g., teachers, administrators, volunteers)?	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Other (specify) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
C. Which of the following topics are covered in educating stakeholders?				
1. understanding the local community – culture, needs, resources	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. how to recruit, train, and retain community resources and volunteers				
>in general	_____	_____	_____	_____
>for special roles	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. how to move toward collaborations with community resources	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. how to outreach to hard-to-involve students and families	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. understanding how to create a psychological sense of community	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. developing systematic social supports for students, families, and staff	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Other (specify) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
D. Indicate below other things you want the school to do in enhancing community involvement and support.				

- Indicate below other ways the school enhancing community involvement and support.

- Other matters relevant to enhancing community involvement and support are found in the surveys on
 - >Classroom-based Approaches ...
 - >Home Involvement in Schooling
 - >School-Community Collaboration