

## Partners in Education Frequently Asked Questions

*“Connecting with the right school for my business was easier than I thought.”* Small business partner,  
George Jenkins High School

### **How do I become a Partner in Education?**

Becoming a Partner in Education with a public school in Polk County is easy. If you already selected a school, just give them a call. Always start by calling the Principal’s office. He or she will refer you to the person assigned to partnerships at the school site.

If you are not sure where your efforts would be of most value, check out the **Partnership Opportunities** section and then call the Community Involvement office. We’ll work with you to evaluate your resources and help you select a school. You can reach the Community Involvement office at 863-534-0636 or via email [kathryn.bruce@polk-fl.net](mailto:kathryn.bruce@polk-fl.net).

Each Partner in Education partnership is individually negotiated between the business/community organization and the school. Each school has conducted a needs assessment to better determine the type of partnerships that will be most beneficial to their students.

### **Can I partner with several schools?**

Yes. If you intend to develop an individual relationship with each school, simply follow the steps for becoming a Partner in Education.

If you developed a packaged program—either an incentive or curriculum program—and you are offering that program to multiple schools, then you should contact the Community Involvement office directly at 863-534-0636 or via email at [kathryn.bruce@polk-fl.net](mailto:kathryn.bruce@polk-fl.net).

### **I have a small business, can I help?**

Yes. The key is to know your resources and limitations going into the relationship. Many activities do not require a great deal of time, money or many people.

For example, programs that require little time on the part of the business partner include:

- Contributing a product to a school’s incentive program(s) such as A or A/B Honor Roll, reading recognition programs, attendance rewards.
- Participating in the **Great American Teach-in** and Career Days.
- Judging Academic fairs.

Other activities rely on one volunteer at a time, such as becoming a **Mentor**.

### **What can schools do for my business?**

Schools can provide

- Choral or musical groups for entertaining employees,
- Services to the business ie, making banners, buttons, etc.,
- A monthly calendar of school events and school mailings,
- School facility space for business use,

- Speakers to business employees on education related topics,
- Student volunteers for community and business projects,
- Thank you cards, created by students, for special occasions,
- Public thanks to you on their school marquis,
- Congratulations when your organization receives public recognition,
- Letters to CEOs/supervisors acknowledging specific employee contributions,
- Publicity of Partners name in school newsletter,
- Family support of your services.