

Strategies for Success:

Communicate

Several established partnerships acknowledge that getting to know their school partners makes a big difference in the success of the after-school program. There is no one way to do this. Use these examples and find an approach or two that works for you.

Include the principal on your staff selection committee

to establish a sense of shared ownership and create a seamless relationship.

Initially post all positions in the principal's office

to give teachers at the school an opportunity to apply.

Take your partners to lunch.

Get to know them on a personal level.

Send status or progress reports

to school partners on your program's progress.

Meet with the superintendent quarterly

to give a quick recap of how the program is doing. Also ask for the superintendent's feedback.

Choose one board meeting,

invite the school superintendent, and publicly acknowledge her/his good work.

Present gifts made by youth to each partner

(superintendent, principal) and each teacher whose classroom you use.

Once a week have key staff talk informally with the principal.

Ask questions: "How are things going?" "Are you pleased?"

Pull together an advisory group of teachers, parents and youth.

Organize the community for the schools as part of an aligned plan.

Share evaluation findings and continuous improvement plans

with all partners and seek their input.