The Sum Is Greater Than the Parts: Engaging Community to Promote Math Learning

Well-designed school-community partnerships are associated with increased student self-confidence and achievement generally and in math specifically.[1]
School-community partnerships can:[2,3,4]

| **Connect** learning contexts to provide students opportunities to apply math in new situations. | Expand student **access** to experts and authentic learning experiences. | **Amplify** positive messages about math across student experiences in and out of school. | Ensure **complementary** and mutually reinforcing learning pathways. |

Every Community Organization Can Play a Role

Consider the role of different, interconnected community organizations in supporting students and their families to learn and succeed in math.

- Schools
- Places of worship
- Libraries and museums
- Other local government agencies
- After school and recreational programs
- Institutions of higher education
- Businesses
- Philanthropic organizations
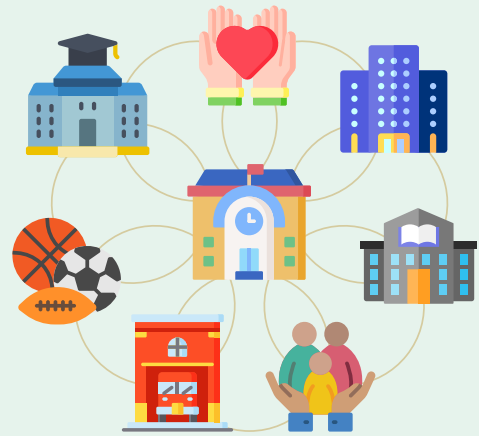
Strategies for Community Partnership

Community assets & representation

- Assess and leverage the expertise of the community.[5]
- Identify partners who reflect the diversity of the community.

Goal setting & vision

- Establish shared vision, mission, and goals.[6]
- Collaborate on a mutually beneficial plan.[7]
- Build ownership by regularly discussing progress and revising the plan as needed.

Coordination & communication

- Establish school and community partner roles and responsibilities.
- Document formal agreements to ensure common understanding, transparency, and sustainability.
- Create channels for ongoing communication to build and maintain strong relationships.[8]

A great way to engage community partners in promoting math learning is by partnering to host a Community Math Night. Learn more in REL Appalachia's Community Math Night Facilitators' Toolkit.

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