



## **Gainesville City School System Partners in Education**

The Partners in Education program for Gainesville City School System allows businesses and organizations to collaborate with schools or the school district to provide resources, services, funding, and support that offer enhanced opportunities for students, families, and employees.

### **What is Partners in Education (PIE)?**

Partners in Education is a mutual agreement between a business, group, or organization with a school, schools, or the Gainesville City school district. The partnership is a joint collaboration that enables the school district, individual schools, and the business community to enrich educational processes and to strengthen relations within the community. The partner contributes to the welfare of the school(s), students, and school staff. Typical areas of service include dedicating time, materials, supplies, and/or financial resources to benefit the school(s) or the Gainesville City school district. Schools or the school district also contribute by recognizing their partners for their contributions and services.

### **Who can participate?**

Businesses (small and large), civic groups, government agencies, churches, colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations can establish a partnership. Examples include all types of businesses such as retail stores, restaurants, real estate agencies, manufacturing companies, banks, etc.

### **What are the requirements for becoming an official Partner in Education?**

A Partnership Agreement form should be completed between the business, organization, or group and the participating school(s) or school district. A minimum of two activities (or commitments) per school year should be performed by the business partner. Partnership goals and initiatives should be clearly defined in the agreement. Businesses and organizations do have the option to partner with more than one school within the school district.

### **How long does a partnership last?**

The agreement is for a period of three consecutive years with the option for the school, school district or partnering business or organization to terminate the agreement at any time prior to the expiration date of the agreement. The agreement can be modified or updated during the three-year term.

### **How is a partnership established?**

Partnerships may be initiated by a school, the school district, or a business/organization. A partnership agreement form must be signed by all parties and processed with the GCSS Communications department at the Gainesville City district office for final approval. A copy of the agreement will be sent to all participating parties and kept on file with the Communications department at the Gainesville City district office. The community partner will be listed on the school(s)' and/or district website in a designated section.

**Are partnership agreements renewable?**

Yes. At the end of the three-year term, a partnership agreement can be renewed; granted that all parties are in mutual agreement of the terms and conditions of the partnership.

**Is there a financial obligation for becoming a partner?**

There is no cost associated with establishing a partnership. Financial and in-kind donations are made at the discretion of the partner.

**Can businesses or organizations partner with the Gainesville City School System district office?**

Yes. Business and organizations can partner with Gainesville City School System granted that there are no conflicts of interest in regard to district operations and/or contractual agreements with vendors of the school district. The partnership will not reflect a sole endorsement of the business or organization and should be in alignment with supporting educational opportunities or initiatives within the school district and the community.

**What can Business/Organization Partners do for schools?**

- Volunteer for school activities, school-related events or classroom activities/projects (tutoring, mentoring program, classroom assistance, book reading)
- Donations of funds, food, supplies, materials, or services, etc.
- In-kind donations such as books, school supplies, clothing, bookbags, etc.
- Discounts for students or staff on products or services
- Provide incentives for students, teachers and staff
- Provide seminars or presentations to students, faculty, staff or parents
- Provide free lessons for specific services or training for students or staff
- Participate in career day, job fair, or mock interview events
- Assist with school festivals and other fundraising events
- Provide facility tours, field trip opportunities, or job shadowing/work-based learning experiences
- Provide academic tutors, mentors, or student internships
- Allow participation of school talent at corporate celebrations, events, or holidays such as chorus, band, or drama performances
- Sponsor youth educational programs
- Provide awards, prizes or incentives for PBIS initiatives (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports), perfect attendance, good behavior, academic achievement, or Student of the Month recognitions
- Sponsor contests in arts, writing, reading, math, etc.
- Provide awards or incentives for teacher/staff recognitions (Teacher of the Year, Heroes of the Herd winners, Teacher/Staff of the Month, Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day)
- Donation of food or refreshments for school events, meetings, workshops or programs
- Sponsor pizza or ice cream parties for student achievement
- Display student artwork at corporate offices or buildings
- Provide volunteer labor and/or supplies for building projects, renovations, or playground needs
- Serve on a school-related committee
- Sponsor school events or special programs

## What can Schools do for Business/Organization Partners?

- Publicize partnership activities through school newsletter, school website, school publications, school announcements, and social media
- Display banner with logo at school events or sporting events or at a designated area in school
- Create a bulletin board honoring community partners
- Allow partners to set up booths or exhibits at Open House, Fall Festivals, Curriculum Nights, or school-related events or programs
- Allow partners to sponsor a training session, meeting, seminar, or presentation for students, employees, or parents
- Special recognition of partners at PTA or PTO meetings, faculty meetings, or school events (award day programs, parents' night, etc.)
- Sponsor a PIE Appreciation Day for community partners
- Nominate partner for Partner in Education of the Year Award for recognition at a school board meeting at the end of the school year.
- Allow distribution of flyers or handouts to students and employees with a maximum distribution of two times per school year. **(Note: Religious-based advertisement can only be placed in a designated location in the school for voluntary pick-up only.)**

## For questions or additional information, please contact:

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## School PIE Coordinators

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**Gainesville Exploration Academy:** Michelle Masters - [michelle.masters@gcssk12.net](mailto:michelle.masters@gcssk12.net)  
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**New Holland Knowledge Academy:** Marie Phillips and Mary McConnell  
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