

What Do Successful Action Teams for Partnerships Do?

Good Teams . . .

1. Help members communicate with each other.

- Develop respect for one another's strengths and talents.
- Establish ground rules for communicating with team members.
- Identify clear roles and responsibilities for all team members.
- Create a spirit of cooperation, encouragement, and appreciation.
- Rise above school politics to communicate with all faculty, staff, and families about partnership activities.

2. Plan goal-linked partnerships.

- Write an ambitious *One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships* with clear goals and objectives for family and community involvement.
- Link partnership activities to school improvement plans and goals.
- Identify and obtain needed resources for planned activities.

3. Conduct productive meetings.

- Create an appropriate meeting schedule for the full ATP and for ATP committees.
- Follow a focused agenda at each meeting.
- Start and end meetings on time.
- Invite input from all team members.

4. Make decisions collegially and share leadership.

- Establish guidelines for decision making.
- Agree to disagree with ideas, not people.
- Discuss and solve problems; build consensus.
- Share leadership to implement planned activities.

5. Continue to improve partnerships.

- Celebrate successful partnership activities and results.
- Evaluate each activity after it is implemented.
- Identify areas for improvement.
- Write a new *One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships* every year.
- Replace team members who leave.
- Adjust roles and responsibilities as needed.
- Actively recruit new family and community partners for fresh ideas and diverse perspectives.