

# STATE LEADERSHIP ROLES

## FOR SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Conduct some or all of the following to strengthen state partnership programs.

1. **WRITE A POLICY** that identifies state goals for school, family, and community partnerships, including all six types of involvement. Specify enactments to assist districts and schools to understand and implement the policy. Periodically review the policy with input from educators, families, and the public.
2. **IDENTIFY AN OFFICE or DEPARTMENT and DIRECTOR or COORDINATOR** for school, family, and community partnerships, with adequate staff and resources. This office will develop plans, take actions, and coordinate work on family and community involvement. The director for partnerships will identify and periodically convene a leadership team of colleagues across departments to share their work on family and community involvement and to discuss next steps and new directions.
3. **WRITE A LEADERSHIP PLAN FOR PARTNERSHIPS** that lists and schedules actions to promote, increase, and support knowledge and skills for conducting effective partnerships at the state level and in districts and schools across the state.
4. **IDENTIFY A BUDGET WITH ADEQUATE FUNDS** for staff salaries and program costs. This may include funds for professional development, small grants for districts or schools, conferences to share best practices, evaluations, a state advisory committee on partnerships, and other leadership activities.
5. **PROVIDE INSERVICE EDUCATION AND ANNUAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS** for district leaders across the state who are ready to take responsibility for working with their schools to implement effective partnership programs. State leaders will have the most impact if they guide district leaders for partnerships to work with their own schools on this agenda. However, state-sponsored workshops on partnerships also may be offered to school-based Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) and/or other educators or parents.
6. **CONDUCT END-OF-YEAR WORKSHOPS OR ANNUAL CONFERENCES** to celebrate and recognize excellence, encourage statewide or regional exchanges of best practices, and discuss solutions to challenges of school, family, and community partnerships.
7. **DEVELOP OR SELECT TOOLS AND PRODUCTS** that districts and schools can use or adapt to improve their partnership programs. Help district leaders learn of available resources for improving district-level and school-based partnership programs.
8. **ESTABLISH A WEBSITE, E-LIBRARY,** and/or other communications to disseminate effective tools and materials, results of research, and other information that will help districts and schools improve their partnership programs. Share information on partnerships with the public and the media.
9. **SUPPORT RESEARCH AND EVALUATION** to learn which practices contribute to successful district leadership in working with all schools and to effective school programs that produce results for students, parents, teachers, schools, and communities. This includes an accountability system to monitor progress in district leadership and school program development.
10. **WORK WITH STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES** to set requirements for teaching and administrative credentials to prepare teachers and administrators to understand and conduct comprehensive programs of school, family, and community partnerships.
11. **WORK WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY** to establish flexible leave policies so parents can attend conferences at their children's schools. Increase business-school partnerships and volunteer programs.
12. **CONDUCT OTHER STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES** to build strong and permanent programs at the state level and in all districts and schools.