

Function.

Roles and Responsibilities

The school and community coordinators are the key leaders in the partnership program. The LEAP staff serves as a resource and lends assistance when needed. Partnerships will not thrive without strong commitment and ongoing support from both sides.

School Principal

- Integrate partnership activities into the goals or objectives of your school
- Actively participate & attend LEAP activities
- Identify a coordinator to represent your school
- Set a positive tone for partner activities
- Be accessible to the coordinator for ongoing support
- Facilitate the time needed to work on partnership project planning
- Communicate school guidelines that coordinators must follow
- Assist with the evaluation and review of activities

School Coordinator

- Meet regularly throughout school year
- Match school/business needs with school/business resources
- Develop an annual action plan with specific objectives for partnership activities
- Coordinate recognition and appreciation of partners at the school
- Promote LEAP projects and activities to administrators, executives, colleagues, students, and parents
- Identify other key personnel to be involved on the partnership team
- Inform, recruit, and orient volunteers
- Keep the principal informed of partner activities, contributions and changes
- Assist with the evaluation and review of activities
- Attend LEAP events
- Complete an annual year-end report worksheet and submit to the LEAP office
- Communicate questions, problems, and successes to the LEAP office

School coordinators should be sure that:

Parents understand the program and use it appropriately. (Example: all requests must go through the designated school coordinator.) Partnerships and parent organizations complement one another in their goals and activities to enhance student achievement. Effective communication between the two can provide important access to resources which help solve common problems.

Teachers understand the program and use it effectively. (Example: Requests need to be made a part of a building assessment, and needs should be prioritized.) When appropriate, plan activities with the individual volunteer; prepare the class for the volunteer's arrival, and assist the volunteer as needed. Teachers should communicate any schedule changes that may affect volunteers.

LEAP Staff

Businesses, organizations, schools, or school programs interested in forming a new partnership should contact the LEAP office at leap@usd497.org or 330-2790.

LEAP staff assists in the matching process, as well as monitoring program success, and providing training to enhance partnerships. After forming a partnership, the LEAP staff will work with the identified community and school coordinator to insure success. Year-end reports, submitted by coordinators, help monitor number of volunteers and hours, financial resources, and in-kind contributions.

The LEAP office is located at:
Educational Support and Distribution Center
110 McDonald Dr.
Lawrence, KS 66044

LEAP staff duties include:

- Identifying goals for LEAP by working with the LEAP Board of Directors
- Communicate goals and objectives of the program
- Recruit new Achievement Partners
- Establish LEAP policies
- Coordinate district-wide needs
- Identify community resources
- Network with other Lawrence Public School programs
- Obtain feedback on LEAP activities
- Monitor and facilitate the program's success

Benefits to Stakeholders

Partnerships are designed to be just that, partnerships – everyone benefits!

Students

- Become better informed consumers
- Gain exposure to additional positive role models
- Know that adults in the community care about them
- Discover how classroom learning links to the workplace
- Develop a heightened motivation for learning
- Can acquire a better self-image and self-confidence
- Learn about career choices
- Develop a more positive attitude about the Lawrence community
- Become more involved in their community

Business and Community Employers (research based)

- Retain employees due to their feeling of “connectedness” with the community through their employer
- Acquire additional skills that can be used in the workplace
- Gain happier employees
- Impact their bottom line positively by having enhanced community relations
- Improve their image in the community
- Enhance their image with their employees
- Gain additional consumers
- Increase their visibility in the community
- Acquire current and future employees for their organization

Educators

- Become better informed about expectations of their students in the workplace
- Receive support and recognition for their education efforts
- Gain expertise to aid in compatibility of instruction with workplace needs
- Gain team members in the instruction of students
- Become more aware of the resources and support available
- Fill building needs with the help of the community

Business employees & organization members

- Receive better trained future employees
- Contribute to development of human resources
- Have the opportunity to make a real difference for kids
- Enhance their community relations efforts
- Receive recognition for their efforts in the schools
- Become happier and more attached to their organization, usually staying on longer as an employee or being a more active member of a group
- May share information about their expertise with students and parents
- Acquire a better understanding of their school system and education needs of Lawrence youth

Parents

- Acquire additional support for their children
- Gain insights into the workings of our community
- Learn about a variety of businesses and organizations
- Network with others to provide support for public education

The Community of Lawrence

- Has a better school system due to active citizen participation
- Provides a better quality of life for youth and adults
- Attracts new businesses and residents to whom education is important
- Provides a healthier economic environment
- Gains a better understanding between the citizens and school personnel
- Has reduced long term social service expenses by promoting prevention
- Has a more connected community