



**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP  
PPSD POLICY**

<b>General Belief</b>	<p>The Providence School Board welcomes the valuable contributions made to the Providence Public School District (PPSD or District) through the assistance and engagement of partners in District schools. The Board believes that the support of partners and the entire Providence community is vital to our students' success.</p> <p>The Board further believes that increasing community partnership opportunities and other types of school-based engagement, as well as clarifying the community partnership process, will encourage more collaboration, alignment and innovation with the District, and allow both the District and partners to leverage resources and assets more effectively.</p> <p>The Board recognizes that the placement of community partners and providers and other non-employees should be implemented in a manner that promotes the safety of all our children and staff.</p>
<b>Purpose and Scope</b>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to establish the guidelines for community partnerships and providers, as well as the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of such individuals associated with partnerships and providers at the school and District level.</p> <p>This policy applies to all partners who provide services, and/or engage with PPSD students at District-sponsored events, both on and off District property, and both during and outside of the school day.</p>
<b>Definitions</b>	<p>The following definitions are provided to assist in understanding this policy and the legal obligations of the District.</p> <p><b>Community Partnerships:</b> A collaborative relationship between the PPSD and communities entities that is mutually beneficial and works towards shared goals and purpose. Organizations that have contracts or formal agreements with PPSD to provide program support services for students before, during, and/or after the school day.</p> <p>Since Community Partnerships can encompass a wide variety of activities, the following categories aim to help clarify, maximize and leverage community resources for learning and academic achievement:</p>

	<p><b>Cooperation-</b> partnerships are formed to exchange programmatic information and services to our families and students. Partners in this category are managed by the school principal or designee.</p> <p><b>Collaboration-</b> partnerships are formed to coordinate efforts and identify the targeted audience. The priorities of this partnership is set by the community partner. Partners in this category are managed by District staff</p> <p><b>Strategic Collaboration-</b>partnership are formed to share resources, risks and decision-making. The partnership is set on a strategic direction of programming aiming to support student achievement. Partners in this category are managed by District staff.</p> <p><b>Cross-Sector Collaboration-</b>partnerships are formed by several organizations coming together to share resources, risks and decision-making. The partnership is set on a strategic direction of programming aiming to support student achievement. Partners in this category are managed by District staff.</p> <p><b>Disqualifying Information:</b> Any offense listed in Rhode Island General Law §§ 23-17-37, 11-37-8.1, 11-37-8.3, 11-9-1(b), 11-9-1(c), and 11-9-1.3.</p> <p><b>Partner/Provider:</b> The entity that the District contracts with or enters a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with to form a Community Partnership.</p> <p><b>Performance-Based Contracts:</b> Contracts that are developed by the District with clear purpose and requirements of the work to be performed. The requirements set forth are clear, specific and with measurable outcomes. All contracts must include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Required outcomes or results – Measurable results and/or outcomes for conducting the project. The Performance-Based Contract will describe and establish numeric value to each outcome and related funding implications.</li> <li>b) Performance standards – Standards for completeness, accuracy and timeliness for the project.</li> <li>c) Monitoring Methods – The methods and timeline used to monitor and report on performance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guidelines and Implementation Strategies</b></p>	<p>The Superintendent will develop administrative regulations for Community Partnerships across District schools.</p> <p>The regulations should address each of the following:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project Proposal which outlines the project idea and commitment of the District and/or school.</li> <li>2. Signed formal agreement such as a contract or data sharing agreement, and/or a Signed Memorandum of Understanding, which outlines the expectations and obligations of the District and the Partner/Provider.</li> <li>3. Background Check(s) requirements are included in both contracts and MOUs and address the following, at a minimum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Partner/Provider may be required to undergo all or some of the following clearances prior to the commencement of work: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. National and or State Criminal Background Check,</li> <li>ii. DCYF Clearance Request</li> <li>iii. National Sex Offender check</li> </ol> </li> <li>b) The Partner/Provider shall conduct, review and maintain on file evidence that the required background check(s) have been completed for every employee and volunteer.</li> <li>e) The District reserves the right to audit Partner/Provider files.</li> <li>d) The cost of all background check(s) is the responsibility of the Partner/Provider.</li> <li>e) The criminal background check(s) must be completed at a local/state police station or the Attorney General’s office or an approved third party source.</li> <li>f) The District reserves the right to deny or rescind the placement of employees or volunteers associated with the Partner/Provider.</li> <li>g) Partner/Provider must update the District within 72 hours of any changes on the criminal background check(s) of their employees and volunteers.</li> <li>h) Partner/Provider shall ensure that all employees and volunteers undergo annual background check(s) prior to the commencement of the school year.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. <u>Orientation</u>  At the beginning of each school year, the Office of Strategic Community Partnership will provide an orientation to all Partners/Providers. Additional orientation will be offered on quarterly basis for new Partners/Providers. Orientation for community partners under this policy shall include, at minimum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Overview of the partnership process</li> <li>b) PPSD Strategic Plan</li> <li>c) Progress monitoring</li> <li>d) Procurement process</li> <li>e) Child abuse reporting protocols</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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	<p>f) Regulations for use of school facilities  g) District policies  h) State and federal laws related to student rights, confidentiality of records, and nondiscrimination.</p> <p>5. <u>Workshops</u>  During the school year, the Office of Strategic Community Partnership will provide workshops for all Partners/Providers. Workshop topics under this policy shall be based on District and Partner/Provider needs and in support of District goals and priorities.</p> <p>6. <u>Disqualifying Information</u>  Any individual for whom the Partner/Provider receives notice of disqualifying information will be presumed ineligible to be placed, pursuant to District policy. Disqualifying information is any offense listed in Rhode Island General Law §§ 23-17-37, 11-37-8.1, 11-37-8.3, 11-9-1(b), 11-9-1(c), and 11-9-1.3.</p>
<p>An Training, Oversight, and Communication</p>	<p>Prospective Partners/Providers, consultants, and other non-employees will be recruited to assist with and/or provide services to students with supports that are aligned to achieving the District’s mission, vision, and goals as articulated in the strategic plan.</p> <p>The Superintendent will ensure that the administrative regulations include the process of communicating the policy to Partners/Providers. The Partner/Provider will ensure that there is a process for reviewing, approving or denying individuals associated with partnerships and communicate this with the District.</p> <p>The District will report to the Board annually on the impact of community partnerships that support District activities.</p> <p>The superintendent or designee will review and amend the administrative regulations as needed.</p>
<p>Compliance with Laws, Confidentiality Requirements</p>	<p>The Superintendent will ensure that all PPSD personnel and all PPSD contractors comply fully with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and with all Board policies. In the event any part of any policy is unlawful, the Superintendent will report such event to the Board as soon as practicable and request of the Board a modification of this policy.</p>
<p>Legal Reference</p>	<p>Rhode Island General Law § 16-2-18.1</p>

	Rhode Island General Law §§ 23-17-37, 11-37-8.1, 11-37-8.3, 11-9-1(b), 11-9-1(c), and 11-9-1.3.
Cross Reference	PPSD Volunteer Policy PPSD Student Teachers and Intern/Practicum Policy
History	Approved by Board: November 14, 2018