

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Background**

The formation of partnerships with business and industry provides an opportunity for educators to work with the community. Such partnerships offer the possibility of expanding the provision of relevant, challenging, life-based learning opportunities for students as well as supplying business with an opportunity to share their resources while benefiting from the resources of the educational system. The resultant sharing of attitudes, beliefs and values is beneficial to the system.

### **Procedures**

1. A system-based partnership with business and industry will be organized and coordinated at the Division level. All responsibilities for such a partnership shall remain at the Division level.
  - 1.1 The Superintendent shall have final responsibility for the organization and coordination of a system-based partnership.
  - 1.2 The Superintendent may delegate the organization and coordination of a system-based partnership to a member of the Division Office staff.
  - 1.3 The determination of the nature and intent of the system-based partnership shall be made between the partner and the Division and shall be incorporated in an operational plan.
  - 1.4 The outcomes of a system-based partnership must enhance the delivery of quality educational experiences for students.
  - 1.5 All safeguards related to the well-being of students shall be identified in the operational plan for the partnership.
  - 1.6 Communications between the partner and the school system shall remain at the system level.
  - 1.7 Division Office personnel shall carry out the implementation of the operational plan for a system-based partnership.
  - 1.8 Evaluation of the system-based partnership shall be carried out by the Division and shall be communicated to the participants.
  - 1.9 The decision to continue or not to continue with a system-based partnership shall be made by the Superintendent and the business or industry partner.
2. A school-based partnership with business and industry will be organized and coordinated at the school level. All responsibility for such a partnership shall remain at the school level.
  - 2.1 The Principal shall have final responsibility for the organization and coordination of a school-based partnership.
  - 2.2 The Principal may delegate the organization and coordination of a school-based partnership.

- 2.3 The determination of the nature and intent of the partnership shall be made between the partner and the school and shall be incorporated in an operational plan.
  - 2.4 Assistance to the school in any aspect of a school-based partnership shall be obtained from the designated member of the Division Office staff.
  - 2.5 The outcomes of a school-based partnership must enhance the delivery of quality educational experiences for students.
  - 2.6 All safeguards related to the well-being of students shall be identified in the operational plan for the partnership.
  - 2.7 Communications between the partner and the school shall remain at the school level.
  - 2.8 School staff shall carry out the implementation of the operational plan for a school-based partnership.
  - 2.9 Evaluation of the school-based partnership shall be carried out by the school and shall be communicated to the participants and the Superintendent.
  - 2.10 The decision to continue or not to continue with a school-based partnership shall be made by the Principal and the business or industry partner.
3. Notwithstanding clause 2.0 the Assistant Superintendent Corporate Services must sign and approve any contracts or partnerships that are for more than 1 year and/or have a value of over \$5,000.

Reference: Relevant Legislation & Guidelines

## Ethical Guidelines for Business–Education Partnerships

Business–education partnerships are mutually beneficial relationships between employers and educators that are designed to enhance learning for students and other learners. They may involve other education stakeholders as partners, including students, employees, parents, communities, labour, and government organizations. Most business–education partnerships are co-operative relationships in which partners share values, objectives, human, material or financial resources, roles and responsibilities in order to achieve desired learning outcomes.

### Canadian employers and educators support business–education partnerships that:

- Enhance the quality and relevance of education for learners
- Mutually benefit all partners
- Treat fairly and equitably all those served by the partnership
- Provide opportunities for all partners to meet their shared social responsibilities toward education
- Acknowledge and celebrate each partner's contributions through appropriate forms of recognition
- Are consistent with the ethics and core values of all partners
- Are based on the clearly defined expectations of all partners
- Are based on shared or aligned objectives that support the goals of the partner organizations
- Allocate resources to complement and not replace public funding for education
- Measure and evaluate partnership performance to make informed decisions that ensure continuous improvement
- Are developed and structured in consultation with all partners
- Recognize and respect each partner's expertise
- Identify clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all partners
- Involve individual participants on a voluntary basis



The Conference Board of Canada  
255 Smyth Road, Ottawa, ON K1H 8M7 Canada  
Telephone: (613) 526-3280  
Fax: (613) 526-4957  
Internet: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/nbec>  
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