

# Building Strategic Partnerships Through Regional Collaboration



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# Objectives

- To learn how to implement a regional discussion on education partnerships through **Education Partnership Planning Forums**
- To identify key stakeholders
- To find out about both the benefits of holding partnership planning forums and the challenges in implementing such regional meetings
- Participate in a “mock” forum; to gain first hand experience

# Texas Association of Partners in Education

Who we are?

TAPE is a state-wide membership association including businesses, institutions of higher education, school districts and community organizations.

What we do?

Provide support to all sectors engaged in building education partnerships through networking opportunities, professional development and partnership sharing opportunities.

# The Need for Greater Collaboration

- Texas has over 1,000 Independent School Districts, many of which are rural
- Each district has their own structure for the oversight, development and management of education partnership programs
- The scope of partnerships with school districts is broad and varies across the state
- Effective communication and partnership sharing comes with challenges
- Businesses, community organizations, colleges and universities have few opportunities to interact and plan with schools towards developing effective partnerships

The **education partnership planning forums** are interactive meetings based on the concept that all who come to the table contribute equally and can learn from one another.

#### Forum participants:

- Discuss education issues driving the implementation of new education partnerships, such as workforce development, high school graduation and career/college pathways
- Share ideas on sustaining and strengthening education partnerships
- Discuss strategies to strengthen community understanding and support for education partnerships

# Outcomes of the Education Partnership Planning Forum

- Increased understanding of the challenges all stakeholders face when implementing & maintaining education partnerships
- Knowledge of successful education partnerships within the region
- Increased understanding of their own partnerships' strengths and areas needing improvement
- A framework/model for sustainable partnerships
- New contacts with local business, school districts, and other key stakeholders

# Key Stakeholders Involved

- School Districts
- Chambers of Commerce
- Workforce Boards
- Education Service Centers
- Institutions of higher education
- Businesses
- Community Organizations, such as Communities in Schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters, YMCA, YWCA and the local United Way
- Parent organizations, such as PTA/PTO's

# Challenges

- Having equal representation from all stakeholders
- Territorialism
- Language
- Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) schedule
- Institutional issues

# The Future

- Publication of “Soaring to New Heights in Education: Powerful Partnership Practices across Texas”
- Resource sharing
- Train the trainer

