



Other Education Providers and School Partnerships

School fact sheet

Background

Partnerships between schools and non-school education providers acknowledge the important role each plays in the continued learning and development of children and young people.

These partnerships can assist schools to deliver curriculum in a diverse manner and provide access to a broader range of education resources.

The benefits of partnerships

An effective school presents its students with an array of opportunities that inspire them to be more engaged in learning. A partnership with other education providers, such as Universities, TAFEs, Adult Community Education providers or other registered training organisations, can assist in providing these opportunities to students.

Partnerships between schools and other education providers can bring a variety of other benefits including:

- a greater diversity of specialised curriculum, allowing more options for advanced students and reducing the risk of less advanced students being left behind
- encouragement to students to access further education through newly identified pathways or 'stepping stones' to higher education
- an opportunity to link curriculum options with VCAL and VET requirements
- a direct positive influence upon school students' experience and aspirations
- assisting disadvantaged school leavers to identify access support for their particular learning needs
- general assistance to teachers to promote student learning
- an opportunity for teachers to access expert knowledge and innovative teacher practices.

Practical steps to establishing partnerships

Create

Identify an issue to be addressed or goal to be achieved in partnerships with external education providers. This could occur through informal discussions with your contacts within the education sector. It could also occur more formally through contact with organisations that broker partnerships within the education sector, such as the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program or the Local Learning Employment Network (LLEN).

Review the partnership proposal with your school council.

Discuss the partnership proposal with neighbouring schools, existing local networks or the Regional Office in the first instance to discuss whether the issue is being addressed by other schools or in other regions. Your local LLEN may be a good broker when exploring partnership options with another education provider.

Implement

Following initial discussions, plan a strategy to achieve your goals/vision, which includes:

- agreement on clear and realistic objectives
- agreement about how resources will be provided
- inviting organisations and people to contribute to the partnership



- equitably assigned responsibilities between the partners
- a dispute resolution mechanism, just in case things go wrong
- an evaluation process.

It is important to note that despite TAFEs, Universities, Adult Community Education providers or Registered Training Organisations all working within the education sector, these non-school education organisations have different governance structures, funding requirements, and operating guidelines to schools. These organisations may not be used to working with schools and this may have the potential to adversely affect your partnership.

Grow

It is important for schools and other educational providers to understand and recognise the important differences in organisational structure, operations, responsibilities and the wide range of stakeholders each partner may have.

Even well planned partnerships can encounter barriers that may impede the ability to achieve the partnership's objectives. Tackling problems early and embedding ongoing communication, trust and respect can help resolve any issue as it emerges.

Visit the '[Addressing problems](#)' section of the Education Partnership Resource website and the '*Troubleshooting*' fact sheet which details some common barriers and tips to overcome them.

More information

[Local Learning Employment Network](#)

(<http://www.llen.vic.gov.au>)