

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING – Networks with schools, services and agencies

Definition: Schools that partner with community-based organisations, government and non-government organisations and their Communities of Practice, create a network of support for student health, wellbeing, engagement, inclusion and student learning. These partnerships mitigate barriers to student learning, such as ill health and isolation, or limited positive family and peer influences on learning. To be effective, partnerships need to focus on potential impediments to student learning, address risk factors and promote proven protective practices.

School based community hubs and/or co-located services facilitate timely access by families and children to the services they need, while developing an improved understanding of the school culture and school connectedness.

The Essential Elements underpin FISO and provide a foundation for school improvement. They are evident (indicated by green shading) at the Evolving stage and are further articulated in the Embedding and Excelling stages in some dimensions.

Essential Element 5	Whole-school approach to health, wellbeing, inclusion and engagement		
Emerging	Evolving	Embedding	Excelling
The school establishes partnerships			
<p>The school explores opportunities to collaborate with external agencies such as other schools, universities, health service providers and community organisations, to provide additional health and wellbeing support and learning opportunities for students.</p> <p>Consideration is given to using school facilities for the delivery of services.</p>	<p>The school identifies other schools, (both government and non-government), services and agencies on the basis of their capacity to provide health and wellbeing support and intellectual and/or physical resources not available within the school.</p> <p>The school commits resources to develop a network that supports the health, wellbeing, inclusion and engagement of students.</p>	<p>The school collaborates through its Community of Practice and with external partners to create a networked learning community where specific needs can be addressed through the shared facilities, expertise and knowledge of all.</p> <p>The school effectively uses these partnerships to identify and address specific needs, enrich student learning opportunities, address issues of disadvantage and inclusion, facilitate successful transitions, and promote student and staff health, well-being, inclusion and engagement.</p>	<p>The school leads aspects of a well-developed Community of Practice, featuring collective commitment to maximising educational impact.</p> <p>The school functions as a community hub providing access and referral pathways to community supports and providing improved service delivery to students and their families.</p> <p>Co-located services share information that enables them to collectively address complex social barriers to participation in learning and development. Partnerships strategically plan, develop joint actions and collectively monitor progress at regular intervals.</p>
Partnerships support student health and wellbeing			
<p>The school works with specialist services involved with individual children who have significant health or learning issues.</p> <p>The school approach to supporting student wellbeing is communicated to parents/carers.</p>	<p>The school has well-established links with community services for promoting positive health and wellbeing in both staff and students, and for supporting the specific health and wellbeing needs of individual students.</p> <p>The school provides opportunities for parents/carers and students to have input into programs that support student health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>The school works proactively to link students into active lifestyle and wellbeing programs in the local community. It collaborates with network partners to create opportunities designed to mitigate disadvantage and ensure inclusion.</p> <p>Parents/carers and students are key partners in decision-making. Staff health and wellbeing is regularly monitored and supported.</p>	<p>The school is an active partner with community organisations that support staff and students' physical and mental health. It continually seeks to develop and diversify the network through partnerships with a range of service providers and agencies that can meet the specific needs of their students.</p> <p>The school partners with specialists in planning and delivering the health curriculum in collaboration with staff, students and parents/carers.</p>
Partnerships support student confidence in learning and achievement			
<p>The school takes opportunities to engage with other schools and community organisations that offer support to individual students in their learning.</p>	<p>The school connects students with community organisations and institutions to support individual learning needs and build confidence including access to broader or deeper learning opportunities.</p> <p>The school works with other agencies to create specific strategies for students with additional needs.</p>	<p>The school works with network partners to offer resources and activities that support student academic and social/emotional success for all students.</p> <p>The school collaborates with partners and networks to challenge low expectations and close gaps in achievement for specific groups.</p>	<p>The effective use of school, system and community expertise and resources meets the identified learning and development needs of all students.</p> <p>The school is actively involved in networks and partnerships that support students' development and learning. Students, staff and partners collaborate to design and deliver inclusive programs that build confidence in learning and achievement of all students.</p>