



Manchester Public Schools

Office of School/Business Partnerships

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Collaboration with business and community partners is essential to ensure that all students are provided with authentic, real-world experiences that personalize learning and prepare them for future success.

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Role and Purpose

Manchester Public Schools is committed to ensuring that all students are provided with authentic, real-world experiences that prepare them for college and career success. We believe that, through collaboration with college, business and community partners, Manchester Public Schools will ensure that learning is personalized, innovative, independent and connected to students' personal interests and aspirations through the development of authentic experiences that enable them to engage in career exploration and immersion.

Sample Activities for Community and Business Partners

- Serve on school-wide or high school academy advisory board during which members will meet with school staff to:
 - Provide guidance and advocacy that supports authentic academic and experiential programming at Manchester Public Schools.
 - Actively exchange information to develop teacher skills, inform planning and arrange external opportunities for students beyond the walls of the schools.
 - Exchange ideas, plan experiences and provide input regarding programs that support college and career readiness for all students at Manchester High School.
- Act as a resource or help to plan activities that enhance the instructional process , such as:
 - Guest speaking opportunities.
 - Assemblies/presentations.
 - Hosting or co-teaching classes or workshops.
 - Participating in a panel of experts in an identified area of focus.
- Sponsor field trips or site visits.
- Provide job shadowing, internship, job placement or service learning experiences to high school students.
- Participate in or host job exploration and/or networking events:
 - Mock Interview experiences to prepare students for future interviews.
 - Resume workshops/reviews.
 - Annual Career Fair experience for students to expose them to employers in careers of interest.

- Partner with Manchester Public Schools to host events open to students, parents and community members that promote workforce development skills.
- Provide input to students as an authentic audience member or judge at student performance events (student organization competitions, meetings/events or classroom/capstone presentations, cook-offs, etc.).
- Provide support or externship opportunities to educators.
- Provide relevant information to instructors concerning desirable aptitudes and workplace skills.
- Advise on ways to recruit and retain students in programs leading to careers that are nontraditional for their gender.
- Mentor and/or tutor a student or students.
- Provide professional expertise in the creation of new programs, academies, course offerings, educational objectives, assessments, activities and curriculum.
- Assist with recommended standards for experience-based learning activities, work based learning experiences, projects and programs.
- Assist in promotional and public relations activities for high school academies.
- Recommend industry validated credentials available within academy program occupations.
- Assist with obtaining tests and training materials for industry credentials, licenses and certifications.
- Recommend and assist in the evaluation of equipment, facilities, lab or safety programs as appropriate.
- Make donations in the form of scholarships, money, supplies, equipment, incentives or technology.

Benefits to Students

- Students will be provided with a myriad of opportunities to gain knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to be accepted into their college of choice and/or secure and retain employment (communication, teamwork, presentation skills).
- Exposure to responsible adult role models who exemplify the values, attitudes and performance required for success in a program of study or career that is of interest to the student.

- Learning experiences become relevant by providing students with real-life applications of how content will be applied outside of the school setting.

Benefits to our Business Partners and Community Members

Our partners will:

- Help identify and prepare a skilled and motivated pool of future entry level workers (improved work ethic, soft skills, responsibility, productivity).
- Actively build a community of gainfully employable residents who will help sustain and grow our local economy.
- Help retain local talent in the geographic area.
- Gain the opportunity to obtain student perspectives of this important demographically relevant market segment.
- Immediately benefit from increased positive public relations news.
- Names and pictures of our partners will appear on MPS website and other press releases.
- Partners will be acknowledged and celebrated at various district and school events, including end-of year business/community partner celebration.
- Be an agent of positive change in education.

Statistics and Research from EDUTOPIA on the Value of School/Business Partnerships

Programs and Outcomes

- Dropout prevention literature emphasizes the importance of making school relevant to students' lives and ensuring that school is engaging and challenging. In a 2006 survey of students who dropped out of high school, 81% said that if schools provided opportunities for real-world learning, including internships and service learning, their chances of graduating from high school would have been greater (Bridgeland, Diluko, and Morrison, 2006). The study also found that clarifying the links between finishing school and getting a job may convince more students to stay in school (Bridgeland et al., 2006).

- Graduates of career-themed high schools that emphasized the connection between school and getting a good job earned on average about 11 percent more per year eight years after graduating as compared to graduates of traditional high schools (Stern, Dayton, and Raby, 2010).
- Students participating in workplace mentoring and internships have improved grades, comparable or better attendance, and higher graduation rates than students in comparison groups, as well as increased motivation, self-confidence, and career-planning skills (Hughes, Bailey, and Karp, 2002).
- Nearly 70 studies on service learning indicate that service-learning programs have a positive impact on students' academic, civic, personal, social, ethical, and vocational development (Furco and Root, 2010).
- Students participating in service learning show increased academic performance, attendance, motivation, and self-esteem and reduced disciplinary problems and likeliness to drop out (Billig, 2010; Furco, 2010; Furco and Root, 2010).
- Students participating in civic-learning opportunities such as learning about current events or participating in service-learning projects showed increased commitment to volunteering and willingness to learn about state and local issues (Kahne and Spote, 2008).
- Service learning engages students in local community issues, provides students with autonomy and opportunities for self-expression, encourages teamwork, teaches time management, and rewards students for goal attainment (Billig, 2010).
- Service learning increases student motivation by focusing on problem-solving skills, active learning, and student choices in instructional settings (Billig, 2010).

Edutopia Case Studies

- [Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School](#), in Los Angeles, California, has medical internships at local organizations. Some students volunteer at the University of Southern California's University Hospital, some intern at local dentists' offices, while others collaborate side by side with researchers at USC's Keck School of Medicine, working on research projects like developing new cancer drugs and prosthetic retinas.
- [Fowler Unified School District in](#) California's Central Valley, raised trout to protect local habitats, grew fruits and vegetables in an outdoor garden, collected sunscreen and lip balm to

protect field workers from overexposure to the sun, and built construction projects to benefit the district and town. In each case, teachers connected service learning to academics, giving students an opportunity to apply math, science, English language arts, and social studies to their service-learning projects.

- [Montpelier High School](#), in Montpelier, Vermont, focuses on student interest by creating internship opportunities that are designed to connect academic learning to the real world. Students work with local organizations, businesses, and individuals to craft an internship that allows them to explore their interests, learn skills, and work collaboratively with the organization.
- [High Tech High School](#), in North Bergen, New Jersey, offers students several vocational majors including architecture, engineering, culinary arts, graphic design, film/video, science research, theater, and dance. For any project within a vocational major, teachers and students include relevant content from other subject areas to enhance real-world connections.