GUIDING PRINCIPLES
FOR SCHOOL-BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS:

- Benefit both schools and businesses
- Have the support of the school community
- Are built on strong foundations
- Enhance student learning and outcomes
- Are embedded in school and business cultures
- Have the support of school and business leadership
- Are adequately resourced

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:
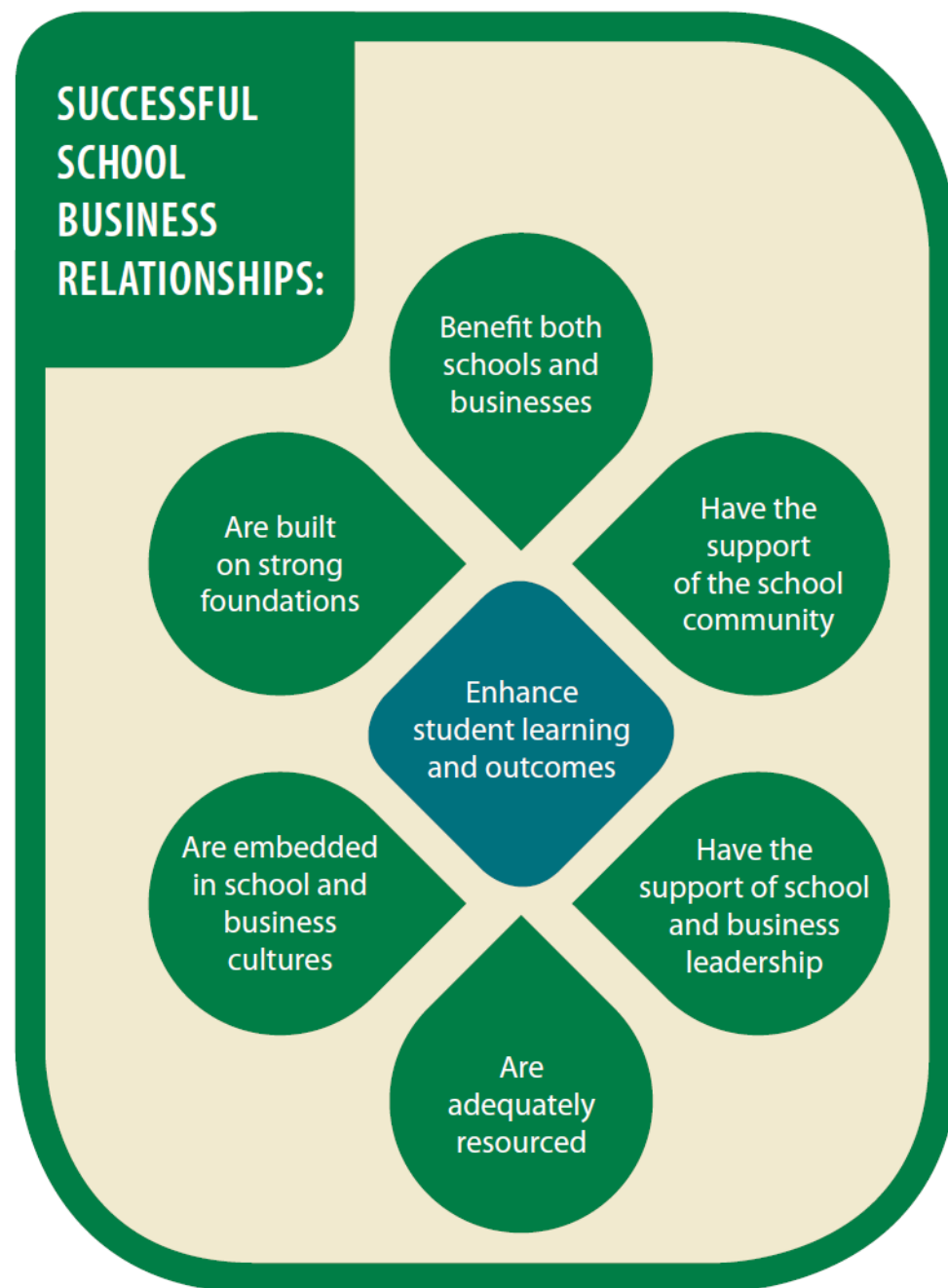
ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING AND OUTCOMES

- have we identified how our relationship and activities contribute (directly or indirectly) to student learning and outcomes?
- is this clearly understood by everyone?
- are we measuring the impact and reporting it to stakeholders?
- can we increase the positive impact on student learning?

BENEFIT BOTH SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES

- do we all benefit from the relationship?
- do we all understand what the benefits are?
- can we increase or extend the benefits by involving others in the relationship?

ARE BUILT ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

- have we agreed and documented our purpose, goals, action plans and definitions of success?
- is there shared accountability for implementation and outcomes?
- do we have open communication and shared decision-making?
- do we have an evaluation strategy (formal or informal) to review our relationship and the activities we undertake?

HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

- does the community understand the purpose of our relationship, what we are doing, and how this will enhance student learning and outcomes?
- are we keeping the community informed of our activities and outcomes?
- have we considered opportunities to involve the community?

ARE EMBEDDED IN SCHOOL AND BUSINESS CULTURES

- have we clearly identified roles and responsibilities?
- are these roles and responsibilities shared appropriately?
- is our relationship visible within our organisations and part of our organisational cultures?
- do we need formal documentation?
- is our relationship proofed against staffing changes in each organisation?

HAVE THE SUPPORT OF SCHOOL AND BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

- are we keeping senior leaders in our organisations involved or informed?
- are other levels of leadership engaged and supportive?
- is our relationship proofed against changes in leadership?

ARE ADEQUATELY RESOURCED BY BOTH SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES

- have we identified all the resources needed for our relationship and activities, including cash, time and in-kind resources?
- do we have sufficient resources to meet these needs?
- are all our organisations contributing resources?
- do we have strategies to address any resource gaps?
- have we considered how to make the resourcing sustainable?

For more information and resources visit http://education.gov.au/partnerships-between-schools-businesses-and-communities-reports-and-research