

Key dimension: Collaborate beyond the school

Family-School Partnerships Framework

A guide for schools and families

Strategies for collaborating beyond the school

'Collaborate beyond the school' is one of the seven key dimensions identified in the *Family-School Partnerships Framework* as guidelines for planning partnership activities. Many organisations and resources that exist just outside the school gates have similar goals to schools. These partnerships can assist schools to develop relationships to collaborate beyond the school and support the learning and wellbeing of their students.

- Identify organisations or individuals within the community who can assist the school to:
 - provide support or information for students, for example university students visiting the school, or speech and social learning programs
 - conduct early childhood learning and wellbeing programs such as playgroups and transition to school programs
 - develop the cultural responsiveness of the school community and promote understanding of, and participation in, community services and activities such as Adult Migrant Services and Aboriginal Culture Education Services
 - provide access to university and TAFE outreach programs that provide information about pathways to further learning, such as STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs
 - provide information on community activities that link to the skills and talents of students, including summer programs on science, or creative and performing arts
 - provide support for 'Breakfast Club' programs and school events, for example parent groups, food banks or other community organisations
 - implement after-school care and activities such as community groups or service providers
 - gather and provide information and access for students and families on community health, cultural, recreational, social support and other programs or services, such as a local neighbourhood group or local council activities
 - provide work experience and structured work placements for students
 - provide tutoring and education support programs, for example a homework club.
- Invite past students to participate in school programs for students, talking to them about their school and post-school experiences.
- Conduct a skills audit to tap into the talents within the families, school and wider community, which can support learning opportunities.
- Enable organisations to use school facilities, which may provide additional opportunities to support student learning or extra funds for the school. For example students may be involved in helping with events at the school.
- Encourage school staff membership on local community groups which provide vital links to resources that support student learning.

Developed by the Family-School and Community Partnerships Bureau. The Bureau is a partnership between the Australian Council of State School Organisations and the Australian Parents Council, with support from the Australian Government. Visit the [Department of Education and Training website](#) for more information.