United Way NCA

Why is partnership in community schools important?

- "There is a gap between what students need and what schools are able to provide" – City Year

- Through partnerships, we are able to bring additional resources to the school

- Organizations tend to focus only on relationships with school staff and the students they serve causing them to miss the value in collaboration between partners

When finding appropriate partners,

It is important to…

- **Know your audience** - What are the students needs?

- **Keep your goals in mind** - Does the organization have the capacity to meet the targeted goals?

- **Plan ahead** - Will this organization work with the structure of the school? If not, is the school willing and able to adapt?

Pros and Cons

	Pros	Cons
Too Many Partners	Organizations are repetitive in content	Competition vs. collaboration
Too Few Partners	Specialized focus (quality vs. quantity)	The demand is higher than the resources available Students needs are ignored

When Taking Inventory

Things to Consider

- Who is in the building?

- What is each organization doing?

- Are we making progress towards our goals?

- What are our challenges?

- Do we have the capacity to do more?

- Are we doing too much?

When deciding to get partners,

Things to consider:

- What do the students need most? Example: academic support, behavior support, STEM, arts, homeless resources, mentorship, health education, mental health support, etc.

- What resources do we already have? Are these resources enough?

- Is this partner's model appropriate for our school culture? Can we make this partner work within our school?

- Do we have the physical space, resources, and financial capacity to support the partner?

Building partners strategically

Every organization should have a partnership meeting either before or at the start of the academic year with school leadership. Partners will also benefit from creating a space:

- To meet one another and share their goals
- To share best practices and collaborate
- To review progress and discuss challenges
- To understand the purpose, role, functions, and value