OBJECTIVE
The objective of the Volusia Partners program is to encourage involvement of businesses and civic organizations in our schools; thereby enhancing student learning, enriching curriculum, and promoting school improvement.

DESCRIPTION
Recognizing that a strong public school system is essential to the prosperity of our community, Volusia Partners take an active role in our schools. Partnership activities may include, but are not limited to:
- sponsorship of school events, programs or workshops
- student recognition and incentive awards
- financial contributions or donations of materials/equipment
- employee release time to mentor, tutor or read to students
- volunteers for school events
- adoption of a classroom, grade level or school
- career or topic speakers

Partnership agreements must be completed and signed annually after partnership activities are agreed upon.

QUALIFICATIONS
Businesses or civic organizations of any size may serve as a Volusia Partner. Partnerships should be structured to meet the identified needs of the school. Schools often compile a “Wish List” for possible partnership activities. Businesses/organizations may also help School Advisory Councils achieve their identified objectives.

TRAINING
Orientation and training is especially important when a partner becomes a classroom volunteer. Teachers provide direct training to classroom helpers and the district provides training to volunteer mentors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call your local school and ask to talk with the business partner coordinator OR contact:
Volunteer/Partnership Programs
Volusia County Schools, EDC Atlantic
1250-A Reed Canal Road, Port Orange, FL 32129
(386) 255-6475, 734-7190, 427-5223, ext. 38379 or 38381
www.vcsedu.org, select District>Volunteer/Partnership Programs
WHAT PARTNERS CAN DO FOR SCHOOLS

☑ Provide release time for employees to tutor, mentor, or read to students.
☑ Encourage parental involvement for employees through worksite displays and/or publications.
☑ Provide incentives for students who have improved in attendance, academics, behavior, attitude, citizenship, etc.
☑ Provide career shadowing or career mentoring opportunities for students or teachers at the partner’s site.
☑ Donate used equipment or surplus materials.
☑ Serve on the School Advisory Council.
☑ Serve as judges for various school events.
☑ Sponsor school beautification projects.
☑ Sponsor field trips.
☑ Offer field trips of your facility.
☑ Assist with the school newsletter or other publications.
☑ Provide display space for student artwork.
☑ Serve as guest speakers on career awareness topics or special interests.
☑ Provide an assembly program for students.
☑ Adopt a classroom, grade level, or school.
☑ Sponsor special programs or school clubs.
☑ Provide educational or curriculum support materials.
☑ Provide part-time employment for students.
☑ Provide seminars for students, parents, faculties, and/or administrators.
☑ Provide student internship opportunities.
☑ Provide tours or host meetings/special events.
☑ Assist with school fund-raising activities.
☑ Participate in school events.
☑ Provide recognition to teachers.
☑ Sponsor contests in art, writing, math, reading, etc.
☑ Offer free services that are unique to your business.
☑ Sponsor needy families at holidays.
☑ Provide scholarships.

WHAT SCHOOLS CAN DO FOR PARTNERS

☑ Thank your partner often. Notes from students helped by the partnership are particularly effective.
☑ Provide end-of-year evaluations of partnership activities. Compare new data to baseline data.
☑ If your school has a monthly newsletter or calendar for parents, provide space for a partnership column.
☑ Provide space in the school to highlight partnership activities.
☑ Invite your partner to serve on advisory committees, task forces, etc.
☑ Put your partner on your mailing list. Communicate!
☑ Invite partners to all volunteer recognition events.
☑ Recognize new partnerships on the school marquee.
☑ Provide visibility by submitting partnership information to be used in press releases, human-interest articles, and school publicity.
☑ Give an update on partnership activities at PTA/PTSA/PTO meetings and introduce partners.
☑ Provide your partners with an inside look at your school. Tour the school and explain the curriculum.
☑ Encourage student groups to perform for company functions.
☑ Initiate a student Partners Club or have the Student Council assist with recognizing partnership activities.
☑ Obtain birthdays of employees and have children helped by partnership send birthday cards.
☑ Invite your partner to shadow a teacher or administrator.
☑ If applicable, have students submit designs that will be chosen by the partner for holiday cards or publications.
☑ Invite your partner to participate in community projects with your school, i.e. food baskets at Thanksgiving.
☑ Share school and student successes with partners, particularly where the partner has been involved.
☑ Ask business to participate in American Education Week activities (mid November).
☑ Thank your business during Florida School Volunteer Month (February) and National Volunteer Week (late April).
☑ Design a logo or utilize the business’s logo to brand the individual partnership activities/programs.

Volusia Partners supports the Florida Association of Partners in Education

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