



10 CONSIDERATIONS FOR

SUCCESSFUL

**SCHOOL-COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS**

1. Identifying a common interest is a great place to start!

Just as every GEAR UP program is tasked with fulfilling specific objectives, your partners are also tasked with their organizational obligations. Teachers, community stakeholders, and other partners, at times, view GEAR UP initiatives as extra work. A great way to combat this setback is to identify the ways your proposed partnership can support their goals and the goals of GEAR UP.

2. Every partnership requires a clear delineation of roles, responsibilities, and expectations.

Clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of each partner ensures effective and efficient delivery of services, supports, and program implementation.

3. Decision makers must have a seat at the table.

Some partnerships may require the transferring of money, data, and time. It is important to have representatives at the table that can make these commitments.

4. Partnerships are relationships that take time to cultivate.

Most successful partnerships do not take place overnight. It may take multiple meetings and emails to get to know your potential partner and to solicit interest.

5. Start small.

Once you have established a partnership, choose one or two areas of engagement to focus on. Too many areas of focus can decrease the quality of the work. Start small and grow your partnership over time.

6. Establish a goal and a plan to get there.

Develop a SMART goal with your partner(s). A shared goal and vision for your partnership will increase investment amongst all parties. Additionally, work together to develop a plan that is mutually beneficial and that leverages the strengths of each member of the partnership.

7. Regular communication is a must!

It is important to establish a reoccurring time to meet with partners to check-in on progress, identify challenges, and to discuss next steps.

8. Sustainability should be integral to your plan.

GEAR UP is a great asset to every school. However, it is important to consider who will sustain the partnership once GEAR UP supports leave the school campus.

9. Evaluate. Evaluate. Evaluate.

Your partnerships should be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure goal completion and to evaluate the fit of the partner with your program's needs.

10. Sometimes partnerships do not work.

Occasionally, partnerships do not work well for the GEAR UP project. That is ok! Continue to explore your community and network for partnerships that improve your program's impact!