



## Community Literacy Partnerships

### **How can schools and school systems access community resources and build partnerships?**

Just ask! Reach out to your local community programs including health organizations, social clubs, civic groups, religious organizations, local libraries, public service providers, cultural centers, and others. To bolster efforts and demonstrate commitment to cultivating community partnerships, request and share a letter of endorsement from the school system superintendent showing support of community partnerships.

### **How can community partnerships support family engagement around literacy?**

Schools can request funds or donations from community partners to build family home libraries. Partners can donate books or provide monetary donations designated for the purchase of books. Books can also be sent home with students over the summer for them to read and keep. Many local libraries host a Summer Reading Program that awards points and prizes for reading books over the summer. Community partners can help ensure that books are distributed throughout the community in public spaces such as barber shops, waiting rooms, and lobby areas.

### **How can community connections provide support for high-quality curriculum implementation?**

Community partners can also donate funds or books for classroom libraries. Many community organizations offer mini-grants for educational purposes that can be used to purchase classroom and curriculum materials. Check with local groups, including grocery stores and utility providers, for possible grant opportunities. Request that representatives from community partners to do an in-person or virtual read-aloud of books related to the curriculum content.

### **How can community partners encourage students to read more?**

Modeling good reading practices and positive reading experiences is a great motivator for students. That can be accomplished through read-alouds, story times, or other events hosted by community partners. Many community partners offer incentive programs for reading. Check with local businesses and groups to find out what is available. If there are not any local options, partner with a local business or group to start one! One idea is to award tickets to students for every book they read. The school can collect the tickets, and students can win prizes provided by the community partner for meeting reading goals. Prizes for any reading incentive program can include gift certificates to local businesses and restaurants, donations from community partners, coupons to promote local businesses, celebrations such as dance parties or gaming experiences, snacks, and larger prizes for students who go above and beyond their goals.

Access the [Family Literacy Engagement Strategic Plan for Schools and School Systems](#) for additional activities and strategies to enhance community partnerships.

Contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with questions.

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