

Building Collaborative Partnerships

The **Building Collaborative Partnerships Tool** is intended to be used in partnerships to help guide and focus a conversation to gain clarity, expectations and a deeper understanding for each other.



Within each layer there are guiding questions that can be used for these conversations. When selecting questions consider:

- What is most important to receive from this conversation?
- How much time do we have together?
- What information might help create additional entry points?
- Are there questions that could support the progress to the work we have already done?

Possible Entry Points

- During the first few meetings of the partnership, to allow the conversation to focus the people and gain insight and clarity into goals, preferences, focus, and expectations
- Throughout the year when the teacher is reflecting on their practice, goals, and growth
- During PLCs to help build community and expectations
- At the end of the first semester, to help identify successes to celebrate, as well as the social and emotional needs of the teacher

Considerations for the conversation

- Introduce the tool and discuss the purpose of the collaborative conversation
- Limit the amount of questions to allow for deeper conversations, rather than just gathering responses
- After the conversation, reflect on how this process might influence the partnership and identify next steps and commitments for the partnership
- Set a date and a desired focus for the next meeting

Building Collaborative Partnerships

Name:

Date:

Grade Level / Content Area:

1. Vision and Professional Growth

- What are your core values as an educator? How do they align with district and school goals?
- What is a skill you wish you had? How would it impact you as an educator?
- At the end of this school year, what would you want your students to say about your class? What would you want families and/or guardians to say?
- How do you prefer to learn new information?
- What non-education related skills/knowledge do you have that will help you as an educator?
- Which support has been the most helpful for your professional development?
- Which supports have not worked well?
- What are you interested in learning more about this year?

2. Partnership Expectations

- How would you describe an effective and collaborative partnership?
- What would you like to get out of our work together?
- What norms would you like to set for our work together?
- How would you describe your learning and communication styles?
- What is something you need me to bring to this partnership?
- At the end of the year how will we know if our partnership was successful?
- What other support do you have available to you?

3. Student Experience

- What are the essential conditions you will consider as you set up the learning environment?
- How do you gather and use student data or feedback?
- How do you know your work with students is successful?
- What are the most important things to learn about your students? How will you use this in your practice?
- How do you recognize, honor, and integrate the diverse student identities in your classroom?
- What do you understand about the school community?
- How do you currently engage with student's families and guardians? How might you continue to build relationships and collaboration?

4. Social Emotional Competencies

- How would you like students, colleagues and parents to describe you in your professional space?
- How do you build relationships with colleagues, students, and parents?
- What mindsets, skills, and social emotional competencies will help you move forward toward your future goal(s)?
- What conditions need to be in place for you to feel safe and open to sharing?
- When do you feel most comfortable in your professional space? When do you feel most uncomfortable?
- How do you feel when you don't know an answer and how do you respond?
- What self-care strategies do you use?

5. Reflection and Feedback

- How do you reflect on and assess your own practice?
- How do you respond to or prefer to receive feedback?
- How do you like to be recognized or valued for your hard work and/or successes?
- What support has been most helpful for your professional development?/
- What supports have not worked well?
- How would you like to provide feedback on our partnership?

6. Personal Background, Identity, and Interests

- What motivated you to get into education?
- What part(s) of your identity are most important to you?
- How does your identity influence your educational vision and practice?
- How does your identity impact your relationships with students, colleagues, and families and guardians?
- Outside of work, what do you do that brings you joy?

Schedule Next Visit and Reflect

Date:

Time:

Next Coaching Step

(Lesson Preparation, Analyzing Data, Observation or other tool)

Coaching Focus

Reflection and feedback

What are your takeaways from today's conversation? How well did we meet your needs?

What could we have done differently to ensure our work together is valuable?