

# The Partnership for Better Education

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Partnership will structure a coordinated effort to effect systemic change in the engagement and success of students.
2. Each partnering institution will provide the resources necessary to fulfill the initiatives/programming they propose.
3. The Strategic Plan is the formal document uniting The Partnership for Better Education. All parties requesting involvement must address in written format how they are supporting the Mission/Vision and Goals through a specific strategy or strategies as outlined in the document.
4. Emphasis will be placed on integrating the themes of the arts, science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), inclusion and literacy.
5. The Smaller Learning Communities being integrated into the Syracuse City School District may be utilized for initial formalization of partnerships. (See Addendum A)
6. The District has been broken into quadrants with the addition of the new high school, the Institute of Technology @ Syracuse Central, for ease and manageability of Partnership implementation. (See Addendum B)

# The Partnership for Better Education

## Strategic Plan

**Mission:** Assist the Syracuse City School District students to graduate and successfully pursue higher education by providing new opportunities for quality instruction through a formal working partnership between the District, Syracuse University, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, LeMoyne College, Onondaga Community College and SUNY Upstate Medical University.

**Vision:** Engage the District and higher education students, faculty and staff to enhance and enrich the educational experience of the students and communities served by the Syracuse City School District.

- Goals:**
- Identify research-based best practices in instruction and support the transfer of that knowledge to SCSD practitioners through professional development, data and issue analysis and support opportunities, including, but not limited to, the areas of English language arts, math, science, fine arts and high school reform.
  - Create a support structure that increases personal attention for all students through secondary education.
  - Integrate opportunities for all students/faculty and staff from both SCSD and area colleges and universities to participate in the Smaller Learning Communities of the SCSD high schools with specific emphasis on thematic strands including the Arts, STEM fields, literacy and inclusion.
  - Explore the innovative Early College High School concept, which combines high school and college, to develop high schools that will engage all students, especially those in under-represented populations, with the expectations that students graduate in four to five years with both a high school diploma and significant college credit.
  - Work with the District to secure resources to remediate identified gap areas by partnering with SCSD to identify potential grants that will engage area colleges/universities in improving student achievement through enhanced teaching and learning.
  - Assist the District in the recruitment and ongoing training of instructional and leadership staff.
  - Use the District's construction/renovation project and community development to enhance student learning.

**Goal 1: Identify research-based best practices in instruction and support the transfer of that knowledge to SCSD practitioners through professional development, data and issue analysis and support opportunities, including, but not limited to, the areas of English language arts, math, science, fine arts and high school reform.**

**Objective 1A: Support the implementation of the Curriculum Audit Implementation Plan.**

SCSD Responsibilities		Colleges/Universities Responsibilities
1A.1	Communicate the goals of the Curriculum Audit Plan with Partnership collaborators.	Partnership collaborators will identify areas where they could assist the District in the implementation of the Curriculum Audit Plan, including identifying a staff member to serve on the Curriculum Audit Plan Steering Committee.
1A.2	Include Partnership collaborators as a resource in the development of the Curriculum Audit Implementation Plan.	Review draft copy of the Curriculum Audit Plan to identify areas that could be supported by Partnership collaborators and include in the final plan.

**Objective 1B: Identify research-based best practices in instructional areas to close gap areas.**

SCSD Responsibilities		Colleges/Universities Responsibilities
1B.1	Identify and communicate the areas in need of research best practices based on student data.	Provide support for data analysis, identification of gap areas and gathering of research in identified areas. Identify Partnership members willing to serve on committees analyzing and/or planning for implementation of best practices.
1B.2	Identify areas as topics for analysis based on current SCSD data, policy and/or instructional practice as compared to recent research best practice.	Provide professionals from SCSD and The Partnership to conduct analysis of issues/gaps identified by SCSD and recommend changes in practice based on current research.

**Objective 1C: Support the professional development needs of SCSD and preservice practitioners.**

SCSD Responsibilities		Colleges/Universities Responsibilities
1C.1	Communicate professional development needs of the District that could be supported by Partnership members.	Partnership collaborators will assist the District in identifying personnel who could provide professional development in critical need areas.
1C.2	Share SCSD Professional Development Plan.	Identify a Partnership staff member to join the SCSD Professional Development Implementation Team (PDIT)
1C.3	Collaborate to co-sponsor professional development opportunities addressing identified need areas with SCSD staff and preservice students as intended participants.	Collaborate to co-sponsor professional development opportunities addressing identified need areas with SCSD staff and preservice students as intended participants.
1C.4	Teachers will be afforded the opportunity to visit other teachers' classrooms to observe excellence in teaching.	Partnership collaborators will provide research on the development of teacher leaders and best practices in professional development.

**Goal 2:** Assist the District in the recruitment and ongoing training of diverse instructional and leadership staff.

**Strategy 2A:** Identify areas of need for qualified staff.

SCSD Responsibilities		Colleges/Universities Responsibilities
2A.1	Identify and communicate certification areas of high need.	Provide courses leading to the certification of students in identified gap areas.
2A.2	Identify and communicate gaps in preservice training found in new hires	Partnership collaborators will work with the District to enhance existing and/or create Urban Teacher Programs for SCSD staff that are seeking certification in an identified gap area.
2A.3	Participate in area colleges'/universities' recruitment events/fairs	Inform SCSD personnel staff of opportunities to meet preservice students seeking employment.

**Strategy 2B:** Enhance the skills of preservice and current staff.

SCSD Responsibilities		Colleges/Universities Responsibilities
2B.1	Identify teachers and administrators willing to present to college/university preservice students on content identified by The Partnership collaborators providing release time when necessary.	Work with the District to identify personnel who could assist with in-service training in best practices to enhance the skills of SCSD administrators and instructional staff.
2B.2	Ensure the placement and coordination of college/university students with highly qualified teachers and support staff.	Follow jointly developed preservice student placement process to ensure students are placed with highly skilled SCSD staff.

**Goal 3: Create a support structure that increases personal attention for all students through secondary education.**

**Strategy 3A Create Mentor/Tutor Relationships**

SCSD Responsibilities		Colleges/Universities Responsibilities
3A.1	Identify students who need to be paired with a mentor/tutor.	College volunteers will be recruited from within all fields of interest to serve as mentors/tutors. Allow release time from work duties if necessary.
3A.2	Provide time in a student’s schedule to match student needs to the availability of the volunteers.	Provide time in a volunteer’s schedule to match student needs to the availability of the volunteers.
3A.3	Collaborate in providing training for all volunteers.	Collaborate in providing training for all volunteers.

**Goal 4: Integrate opportunities for all students/faculty and staff from both SCSD and area colleges and universities to participate in the Smaller Learning Communities of the SCSD high schools with specific emphasis on thematic strands including the Arts, STEM fields, literacy and inclusion.**

**Strategy 4A Create a data base matching areas of interest and those with expertise to promote an understanding of real world applications of coursework and possible future careers for high school students.**

SCSD Responsibilities		Colleges/Universities Responsibilities
4A.1	Create and publish a catalog of the description of the various themes and career paths in the four high schools.	Provide guest lecturers in fields of interest corresponding to the themes reflected in the high schools.
4A.2	Explain and present the SLC concept and the need for expertise in the various fields of interest to audiences specified by the College Partners.	Partnership volunteers will be recruited and scheduled to visit schools to make presentations in their areas of expertise.

**Strategy 4B      Create a collaborative environment in which Partnership staff, college students, college and high school students form a true learning community.**

<b>SCSD Responsibilities</b>		<b>Colleges/Universities Responsibilities</b>
4B.1	Afford the opportunity for those in the field of education to practice their skills within the guidelines of their respective programs (school counselors, social workers, psychologists, teachers, etc.).	Provide internships in education related occupations to participate in the practice of their craft in all aspects of the SCSD.
4B.2	Provide an opportunity for Partnership students and faculty to participate in service learning.	Encourage faculty and students to participate in the SCSD extended learning community.

**Strategy 4C      Create an environment whereby emphasis is placed on the arts, science, technology, engineering and math fields and access to these fields is brought into the awareness of all students through innovative programming and partnerships.**

<b>SCSD Responsibilities</b>		<b>Colleges/Universities Responsibilities</b>
4C.1	Afford the opportunity for those in the fields of the arts, math, science, and technology to practice their skills within the guidelines of their respective programs.	Provide students/interns/faculty in the STEM related occupations to participate in the practice of their craft in all aspects of the SCSD.
4C.2	Work collaboratively to provide opportunities for SCSD teachers and students to apply learning to real world situations.	Encourage faculty and students to participate in the development of new programs and partnerships that augment the SCSD curriculum, and adds as a value, hands on learning.

**Goal 5: Explore the innovative Early College High School concept, which combines high school and college, to develop high schools that will engage all students, especially those in under-represented populations, with the expectations that students graduate in four to five years with both a high school diploma and significant college credit.**

**Strategy 5A Create an accelerated college program accessible to all eligible high school students.**

<b>SCSD Responsibilities</b>		<b>Colleges/Universities Responsibilities</b>
5A.1	Include courses as college and high school credit bearing courses in their acceptable course catalog and recruit students.	Create courses and mini-courses (on and off campus) that would be available to high school students for college credit.
5A.2	Seek funding and a cost agreement that would make courses available to all students without cost to families or taxpayers.	Seek funding and develop a cost agreement that would make courses available to all students without cost to families or taxpayers.
5A.3	Create a student schedule that will facilitate high school interaction at the colleges.	Offer courses around a schedule that will facilitate high school interaction at the colleges.

**Strategy 5B Support the efforts of non-traditional students to enroll in and pass challenging college level courses.**

<b>SCSD Responsibilities</b>		<b>Colleges/Universities Responsibilities</b>
5B.1	Support student achievement through summer acceleration classes and tutoring.	Provide mentor/tutors specifically for support in college level courses.

**Goal 6:** Work with the District to secure resources to remediate identified gap areas by partnering with SCSD to identify potential grants that will engage area colleges/universities in improving student achievement through enhanced teaching and learning.

**Objective 6A:** Identify resources to support the implementation of best practices and materials.

	<b>SCSD Responsibilities</b>	<b>Colleges/Universities Responsibilities</b>
6A.1	Identify and communicate gap areas and programs to improve practice and/or services to students and their families.	Identify appropriate Partnership members to collaborate in the identification, writing, implementation and/or evaluation of targeted grants leading to enhanced teaching and learning and/or services to parents.
6A.2	Determine SCSD resources to support the implementation of identified programs indicating the need for grant funding.	
6A.3	Identify grants that would be enhanced with a Partnership member collaborator.	

**GOAL 7:** Use the District’s construction/renovation project and community development to enhance student learning.

**Objective 7A:** Support the construction/renovation project.

	<b>SCSD Responsibilities</b>	<b>Colleges/Universities Responsibilities</b>
7A.1	Offer internships to qualified architect students to assist in design and renovation projects.	Partnership collaborators will offer support and input to the renovation of the SCSD schools in the areas of architecture, landscape and environmental design.

**Objective 7B:** Support the creation of community schools.

	<b>SCSD Responsibilities</b>	<b>Colleges/Universities Responsibilities</b>
7B.1	Offer internships to psychologist, social work, social services, nursing, physician’s assistant, and other support career students to work in community school settings with students and families.	Assist with creating and implementing community schools and services within the District.

**Syracuse City School District**

**Smaller Learning Communities**

Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs) were implemented in all four high schools to improve student achievement and learning, reduce achievement gaps among students, and establish a collaborative learning environment. The program provides small learning environments in the four high schools to help ensure all students graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to make the successful transition to college and careers.

Under a recently acquired \$5 million dollar federal grant, the district will expand the program in the upcoming years to enhance freshman learning academies in order to address the needs of striving the grader readers. Under the grant, our high schools will also be able to strengthen and expand existing components of their Smaller Learning Communities plan, while retaining the philosophy of a comprehensive high school.

**Nottingham High School**

*Syracuse University*

1. Visual & Performing Arts
2. Math, Science & Technology
3. Business

**Fowler High School**

*SUNY ESF*

1. Business
2. Science, Engineering & Health
3. Humanities

**Henninger High School**

*SUNY OCC*

1. Health Careers
2. Business & Finance
3. Art Focus
4. Human Services
5. Media & Communication

**Corcoran High School**

*LeMoyne College*

1. Health, Human Performance & Sports
2. Environmental Studies
3. Visual & Performing Arts
4. International Baccalaureate

**Institute of Technology @ Syracuse Central**

*SUNY Upstate*

1. Communications & Design
2. Engineering & Technology
3. Human Services
4. Natural Sciences

## SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT QUADRANTS

QUADRANT 1	QUADRANT 2	QUADRANT 3	QUADRANT 4
<b>High School</b>	<b>High School</b>	<b>High School</b>	<b>High School</b>
Nottingham	Corcoran	Fowler	Henninger
<b>Middle School</b>	<b>Middle School</b>	<b>Middle School</b>	<b>Middle School</b>
Levy	Clary	Bellevue Middle School Academy	Grant
	Danforth		Lincoln
<b>Pre-k -8</b>	<b>Pre-k -8</b>	<b>Pre-k -8</b>	<b>Pre-k -8</b>
	Roberts (K-8)	Blodgett	Huntington (K-8)
		Frazer	
<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>Elementary School</b>
Ed Smith	Elmwood	Bellevue	Dr. Weeks
H.W. Smith	Dr. King	Delaware	Franklin
Hughes	McKinley-Brighton	Porter	LeMoyne
Solace	Meachem	Seymour	Salem-Hyde
	Van Duyn		Webster

**Other Schools/Programs:**

Central Technical-Vocational Center	Elmcrest
Johnson Vocational Center	McCarthy
SRA @ Beard	
SRA @ Carnegie	