

Community and School Assets Mapping for Collaborating with Community

Too often communities focus on their deficiencies and problems rather than on their assets, including tangible and intangible resources that can be built upon to strengthen the community. Use this tool to help you to recognize individual and community assets available to your school community.

Objectives:

- Identify key components (people, institutions, organizations) of local communities
- Envision strategies to involve the diverse groups of community stakeholders as partners in planning and implementing educational work
- Develop strategies to ensure participation from traditionally under-represented groups in the community
- Identify community expertise and knowledge

Identify Personal Knowledge, Skills, and Assets

Use the following diagram to list your own gifts, talents, interests and skills. Feel free to identify non-academic skills and insights. Your personal assets may include:

Abilities and Interests

For example: cosmetology, carpentry, gardening, photography, crafts, entertaining, dancing, etc.

Expertise

For example: accounting, foreign languages, local history, computers, healthy behaviors, cultural and linguistic insights, etc.

Outdoor Activities and Athletics

hiking, hot air ballooning, skiing, fly fishing, astronomy, yoga, etc.

Domestic Skills

baking, piñon picking, canning, quilting, pottery, doll collecting, etc.

Social Skills

public speaking, listening and interviewing, mediation, storytelling, etc

Identify Skills and Knowledge in Community Resources

A strategy to develop long-range partnerships is to visualize the knowledge and skills that are embedded in our communities. Often community partners are not invited to contribute to school activities or need some coaching to bring their resources into the schools. Consider artists and cultural institutions, social service agencies, health and wellness providers, senior citizen organizations and individuals, child-care providers, businesses, law and safety offices, colleges and universities, media and publication agencies, libraries, etc. Use this tool to list the knowledge, skills and human resources in your community.

Organization/Entity	Knowledge Base and Skills	Possible Collaboration
Examples: Kiwanis, New Mexico Out-Of-School Time Network (NMOST), Mission Graduate		



Mapping School Assets

Community partners must view the school as a rich collection of physical and human resources. The following list of school facilities and assets can help identify potential partnerships. Use this tool to determine the assets and resources of your school.

Facilities	Schools are places where community groups can meet. Are there meeting rooms, computer labs, auditoriums and other areas that can be used by community members?
Your assets and resources:	
Materials and Equipment	Even resource-strapped, economically disadvantaged schools have at least some of the following resources which can be shared with and/or used in support of various local community groups: computers, copy machines, books, videos and other media materials.
Your assets and resources:	
Purchasing Power	The materials, commodities and services purchased by schools can be directed to initiate, support or expand neighborhood enterprises, including those created by local youth.
Your assets and resources:	
Employment and Training Practices	The school's hiring practices can include local residents. Professional development opportunities can include families and other educational service providers in the community.
Your assets and resources:	
Courses	Through existing or newly created evening courses, schools can provide education and training for families and school staff as needed.
Your assets and resources:	



Teachers and School Staff	Teachers are a concentrated pool of highly trained adults with critical skills and essential knowledge that can contribute to the efforts of local groups involved in development activities. Consider personal knowledge, skills, and assets.
Your assets and resources:	
Financial Capacity	Schools have the local power to generate and receive special funds through bond issues and proposals to government agencies, corporations and foundations not usually accessible to other community groups. This special capacity can be an important resource in a community development strategy.
Your assets and resources:	
Youth	Students with ideas, energy and motivation can participate in classes, projects and internships which involve them in the local community development process.
Your assets and resources:	