

# Equipping Process for Impactful School Partnerships



The **MISSION OF THE CARING FOR KIDS NETWORK** is to mobilize community organizations in collaborative partnership with schools to inspire hope and help prepare children to impact their world. We bring faith, business, civic and nonprofit organizations together to build sustainable partnerships in support of public-school education through community involvement.

We accomplish this through a proven four-step process to **ENGAGE, CONNECT, EMPOWER and COACH** the partnership for long-term health and sustainability. The end goal of the process is to build a strong partnership that is equipped for long-term success and self-ownership.

## HOW DOES CARING FOR KIDS HELP?

### ENGAGE – STEP 1

**CFK engages and prepares all aspects of the partnership to begin working together.**

- ✔ Meets with the district superintendent and leadership team to identify the schools Caring for Kids will serve.
- ✔ Hosts annual Connection Event for faith, business, civic and nonprofit organizations to learn about opportunities to partner with a school in their community.
- ✔ Facilitates Envisioning Events to engage different segments of the community.
- ✔ Meets with the principals of the district-targeted schools.

#### **Goals for Step 1:**

- ✔ Principal identifies annual high-level goals for the school partnership.
- ✔ Principal identifies school staff liaison.
- ✔ Two or more partnering organizations commit to serve at each targeted school.
- ✔ Organizational champion identified for each partnering organization.

### CONNECT – STEP 2

**CFK brings engaged segments of the partnership to work together.**

- ✔ Facilitates Roundtable Connection Event for new partnerships to bring principals together with new and existing partners to begin a collaborative relationship to support the principal's goals for students, families, and staff.
- ✔ Provides direct support for every new partnership. Caring for Kids partnership directors will attend partnership meetings and work with the principals and liaisons to provide all the necessary components and administration for successful meetings and communications.

**Goals for Step 2:**

- ✓ School partnerships meet regularly (four or more times yearly) to develop relationships, plan, celebrate and evaluate projects to support goals.
- ✓ Components of successful partnerships are modeled by the CFK director at each meeting.
- ✓ Principal attends four or more meetings.
- ✓ At least one collaborative project completed.
- ✓ Liaison and organizational champions begin tracking success.

**EMPOWER – STEP 3**

**CFK provides training/modeling, equipping events, and resources to help the principal and liaison work together with their school partners to build a successful long-term partnership.**

- ☑ Attends meetings to provide support and resources for a successful partnership.
- ☑ Facilitates ongoing equipping events to provide best practices, ideas, and networking for all segments of the partnership.
- ☑ Provides annual District Kickoff Event and Connection Events.

**Goals for Step 3:**

- ✓ The principal and school liaison work together to provide leadership for the partnership.
- ✓ Clear communication and follow-up established.
- ✓ Community partners are engaged and effectively mobilizing resources and volunteers toward the shared goals of the partnership.
- ✓ Additional organizations are added to the partnership as needed.
- ✓ Liaison and organizational champions track success.

**COACH – STEP 4**

**The goal is to build a strong partnership that is equipped for long-term success and self-ownership. Caring for Kids staff will be available for coaching CFK schools.**

- ☑ The partnership is self-sufficient and no longer needs the direct support of Caring for Kids. Caring for Kids continues to provide coaching, equipping opportunities, and potential new partners through Connection Events.
- ☑ Provides annual District Kickoff Event.

**Goals for Step 4:**

- ✓ Partners, principal, and liaison meet regularly (at least four times annually) to support the principal's goals through collaboration, planning, celebrating, and evaluating.
- ✓ Additional organizations are added to the partnership as needed.
- ✓ Liaison and organizational champions track success.
- ✓ Partners, principal, and liaison attend Annual District Kickoff Event.

## Caring for Kids Equipping Events and Resources

### Training Events:

- ✓ **Roundtable Connection Event** (ALL): Opportunity for relationship building and initial connection for partners with the school for collaboration.
- ✓ **Transformative Partnerships Lunch and Learn** (FAITH, BUSINESS, NONPROFIT LEADERS): Gain tools for effective volunteer mobilization, build culture of service and sharing of successes.
- ✓ **Meet and Greet Training** (SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND LIAISONS): Learn to host an event at the school to invite neighborhood organizations to be partners.
- ✓ **Annual District Kickoff** (ALL): Facilitate rally point for all district partnerships to gather to be inspired by the district leadership, celebrate, learn from one another, and plan for the coming year.
- ✓ **Webinar Events** (ALL): Provide opportunities to learn from local and national experts on impactful school partnership topics.
- ✓ **Principal and Liaison Training**: Develop high-level goals, project support, maximize partnership potential, build healthy teams, peer learning for ideas and best practices.
- ✓ **New Principal and Liaison Training**: Support transition of new leadership to continue strong partnerships.
- ✓ **New Partner Training**: Onboard new organizations into the school partnership.

### Equipping Resources:

- ✓ **Engage New Partners:**
  - Who Is at the Table?
  - Caring for Kids Network Video – Creating Hope and Opportunity
  - I Can Make a Difference (speaking points)
- ✓ **Build Strong Partnerships:**
  - Meeting Agenda Template and Discussion Summary
  - School Partnership Roles
  - Sample Goals and Projects
  - Goals Summary
  - Building Resiliency
  - Best Practices
- ✓ **Evaluate Success:** Online tool to track success of partnership