



Step One: ENSURE SHARED MTSS AND FSCP KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHAT, WHY, WHO, WHEN, AND HOW

Application Activity #1: Define *Partnering* Instructions, Examples

1. Introduction

Application Activity #1: Define *Partnering*

This activity is related to the “WHAT” of family, school, and community partnering (FSCP). The definition can be for an individual stakeholder, team, an organization or a school or district. It should be personally meaningful and clearly understood by those who will use it, including students whose school success is the partnering focus.

2. Instructions

This activity can be done individually or in groups, as part of training or individual study. A possible scenario is described below.

Materials: Sheets with the partnering stem; writing utensils; sample partnering definitions.

Outcome: Participants engage in discussing personal and/or team definitions of partnering. Participants hear varying definitions and have an opportunity to collaborate on creating a mutually shared definition. Alternatively, individuals may do this activity on their own and use in his/her personal partnering plan.

Instructions: (These can be varied to fit audiences.) Please write down a brief response to “Partnering is _____”. Then discuss response with your team (or a neighbor). Create a team partnering definition or list the characteristics your team identified. Share key points with entire group. Optional discussion points: ask whether responses would be different if all were educators or family members or community resources? or any different group from the current one? what would students say? or compare with given definitions.

Conclusion: Individual, team or dyad keeps their responses. The following activities might occur with other stakeholders: role-playing; sharing with colleagues; putting on website or on signage in building; using on written communication.

3. Examples

- *Family, school, and community partnering can be defined as the collaboration of families, schools, and communities, as active partners in improving learner, classroom, school district, and state outcomes. (Colorado Department of Education Community of Practice, 2013).*



- *Partnering is being on the same team and sharing goals and knowledge. (Family Member, 2014).*
- *Partnering is coordinating learning between home and school by communicating and collaborating. (School Intervention Team, 2012).*
- *Partnering is a relationship involving close cooperation between parties having joint rights and responsibilities. (Christenson & Sheridan, 2001).*
- *Family-school partnering is sharing responsibility for a student's school success. (Lines, Miller, & Arthur-Stanley, 2011).*
- *Partnering is working together to obtain a common goal for our students. (School Principal, 2010).*
- *Family-school partnering can be defined as the collaboration that drives student achievement. (Flamboyant Foundation, 2013)*
- *Partnering is implementing the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships every day in every classroom. (Online Course Participant, 2014).*