

Baytown Chamber of Commerce Partners In Education Program

Become A Piece of the PIE.....



Partners In Education (PIE) exists for the support and the enrichment of the educational process. PIE will and should benefit both the school and the business.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Goals should be mutually beneficial and acceptable, and relate to the goals of the school and the school district.
2. Realistic and attainable goals should be set by both partners working together.
3. Both partners should gather input from their respective employees before making commitments.
4. Both partners in the adoption should be cautious in making promises which may not or cannot be kept.
5. Money and/or materials items should not be the major factor.
6. The PIE program should be over and above current school activities provided by existing program, projects, PTA funds, etc.
7. Be sensitive not to overburden each other with requests that would jeopardize the program.

DEFINITION OF THE PROGRAM

- Pie is a joint program sponsored by the Chamber and the School District. We need to work closely with GCCISD in administering the program.
- For a business to become partners with a school, it must be willing to have a commitment for the entire school year. The partnership may be renewed at the close of the year, however, a program which does not last for the entire school year is not considered a partnership. For example, a one-time presentation to a school or a single field trip is not a partnership.
- When a business becomes partners with a school, it must specify a primary contact for the school to communicate with. It is suggested that a business have a PIE Committee so that several people can share the load of organizing and administering programs for the school.
- Each school must also designate a primary contact person who has the time and the enthusiasm to administer the Partners In Education program. The business should only have to communicate through one school contact. This ensures a consolidated and well-monitored program.
- Both the school and the business PIE representatives will be required to serve on the Chambers PIE Committee.

- More than one business may become partners with a school, however, each business is responsible for their own activities. If businesses wish to combine activities, they may do so.
- It is important for the school to have a designated person who records all activities and communicates them to the Chamber. This person is often an assistant principal or the parent coordinator and he/she is responsible for publishing activities in the school newsletter as well.
- The actual role of the Chamber is to facilitate the Partnerships in need of help, recruit new partners, and recognize outstanding programs via awards and publications for the purpose of promoting the program to the community.
- When a large business becomes partners with a school, it is important to have full support of the CEO (or equivalent for that business). At the beginning of the partnership, the CEO should communicate his support to the employees to become involved with the PIE activities. Everyone in the business should be aware of and have the opportunity to participate in the partnership on a volunteer basis.
- If a small business does not feel they can become partners with an entire school, they may choose a program or a classroom within the school. For example, a business may choose to pair with a 6th grade science class.
- The relationship between partners is a two-way street and examples of what students can do for businesses are: host singing programs at the business, prove art work for the lobby decorations, pen pal programs and much more.

BUSINESS AND SCHOOLS – PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

COMMON PRINCIPLES: THE FOUNDATION

All PIE programs are founded on common principles and goals, but it is the belief in and adherence to those principles by the partners that make the program work. In the PIE program, both parties should agree totally on the program's principles before developing a plan of action.

The following points should be reviewed carefully:

1. The emphasis should be on utilizing the human resources of the business organization: Time, Expertise, and Experience.
2. There must be a voluntary commitment on the part of the business and the school to involvement in a partnership. This means a philosophical commitment as well as a commitment of resources.
3. The partnership must be undertaken by both parties with the understanding that the main goal is the enrichment and support of the educational environment of all students.
4. The partners should adhere to the program objectives and guidelines.
5. The partners must recognize that the school administration and staff are primarily responsible for the students, their education and their well-being. It must be understood that the school has final approval on all decisions.

6. Both partners should attempt an understanding of each other's institutions.
7. Each partnership should be autonomous and free to develop projects based on identifiable needs and resources.
8. The program developed by each partnership should be goal oriented with a built in evaluation. Each project undertaken by a partnership should have clear objectives and ongoing evaluation.
9. Participation in the partnership program could include faculty, students, management and labor. The outcome could be:
 - a. Increased faculty and business organization involvement in the programs.
 - b. Enhanced curriculum materials through collaboration
 - c. Programs aimed at improving the student's basic life skills
 - d. Realistic understanding of the business's strengths and limitations as well as the resources and limitations of the school.
10. Projects should be designed to support the total development of all children – culturally, socially and economically.
11. The business partners should be viewed as an integral part of the school and should be included in the partnership program planning.
12. A system of sharing information among partners should be employed to ensure full utilization of available resources.
13. Business partner should be open to identifying and soliciting the help of other community resources that can provide special assistance in the area of need.
14. Partners must be sensitive about overburdening each other with requests that would jeopardize the program.
15. The school/business partnership is limited only by imagination.
16. The commitment to work in a partnership, once it is agreed upon, should be made for a period of one school year and reaffirmed each year thereafter.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Principals will appoint a local school planning coordinator and/or committee.
- Schools, working jointly with the supervisor for communication service, will publicize the activities of their PIE programs, providing recognition to the business organization and the Chamber for their efforts.
- Keep students, teachers and parents aware of the partnership and its progress. The school should have visible signs of their partnership and their partner.
- The principal or a designated contact person will have the responsibility of ensuring ongoing communication between the school, the business and the Chamber.
- A school that is strongly committed and has an enthusiastic staff who understands the partnership is a key ingredient to success.
- Keep lines of communication open among all participants in the partnership including the Chamber.
- Promote the partnership through participants' recognition when appropriate.

- Locate places in the school where volunteers can work with students.
- See that volunteers are welcome in the school and notify them of schedules which might affect their services.
- Relay information to the organizations' representative in a timely manner.
- Coordinate schedules with the staff.

BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Mangers will appoint a planning coordinator and/or committee.
- Keep Chamber of Commerce informed bi-annually on PIE activities by submitting articles and pictures in October and March to the Chamber for the PIE Newsletter.
- Work with the school representative to develop a program of work.
- Direct the assessment of money, manpower and time.
- Assure that employees are aware and familiar with partnership.
- Utilize a variety of resources in helping make the partnership successful.
- Prepare press releases on PIE programs to assist in the recognition of the program. On any press release please include that the program is a project of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- To serve as a resource for the business and the school.
- Coordinate new partnerships.

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If you are interested in becoming a Partner In Education, and find out what schools are open for partnership – contact the Baytown Chamber of Commerce at 281/422-8359 or rikki@baytownchamber.com.

It takes a village to raise a child.....