School-Business Partnerships

Making a positive difference for kids

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School ~ Business Partnerships

Making a positive difference
For kids

A Handbook for
Developing and Maintaining
Successful Partnerships

Sponsored by
Anchorage School District
and
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

For further information contact:
Anchorage School District
School Business Partnerships – 240-2345
or
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce – 272-2401

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September 2006

To all interested in School Business Partnerships:

In 1989, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and the Anchorage School District joined together to begin a School Business Partnership Program. The program encourages businesses (large and small), government agencies, and non-profit organizations to participate in the education of our students in all grades.

I sincerely thank all of our partners, and want to encourage other businesses, organizations, and schools to join us in this important work. The School Board and I hope that every school has at least one strong and thriving partnership!

We are very pleased with the progress of the School Business Partnership Program. This is an excellent enhancement of our students' learning experiences and it is a very positive public relations opportunity for the District and the business community.

This handbook has been prepared for both existing and prospective partnerships. I hope you will find it useful in collaboratively developing your partnerships.

Most sincerely,

Carol Comeau
Superintendent
September 2006

To All Interested In School Business Partnerships:

Making sure kids are well trained to enter the workforce is a prime reason the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce partnered with the School District to initiate School Business Partnerships in 1989. Today 460 partnerships are enrolled, reaching 49,000 students and more than 1,000 business people. Anchorage Chamber businesses participating in the program are enthusiastic and feel a sense of positive involvement. It’s an excellent forum for businesses to interact with young people and make a difference.

As an organization, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce is “in business for business” and SBP gives kids a jump start on vital workforce skills. We encourage members to actively participate in the Program because through that participation, the community is offering educational opportunities that positively influence students and affect their lives. Through SBP, students are exposed to the inner working of business while using hands-on learning techniques and securing vital – often pivotal – preparation for future jobs.

School Business Partnerships is an excellent link between the business and educational communities and the Anchorage Chamber will continue to offer support for its continued success. Thank you to all participants for investing in a strong community.

Sincerely,

Stacy Schubert, president
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
OVERVIEW

Special Thanks To:

The Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
For their steadfast support of this collaborative.
Anchorage School District
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The School Business Partnership Program offers opportunities for students, teachers, businesses and community agencies to build partnerships that will enhance students’ experiences, provide more knowledgeable future employees and consumers, and build bridges of understanding and positive working relationships between the business and education community.

PROGRAM GOALS:

1. To improve and reinforce students’ skill development and supplement classroom curriculum with relevant learning experiences in business and community.

2. To affirm student’s self-identity and cultural awareness by providing opportunities for interaction with the business community.

3. To give students a realistic picture of the business world and make them aware of the range and extent of business activities and opportunities.

4. To establish a mechanism for the businesses and schools to share their expertise and services with one another.

5. To develop mutual support and understanding between education, business and community.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE:

The School Business Partnership Program is designed as an on-going program in which businesses give assistance directly to a selected school or schools and vice-versa. The purpose of such a program is to help young people appreciated the importance of a good education and its relationship to the world of work. The partnerships share a common goal and a common requirement that the program be one of commitment of businesses and schools working together in a positive relationship.

Each School Business Partnership is unique in that there is not a set curriculum. Therefore, the program is based solely on the needs and resources of the school and business. Cost and time commitments also vary from program to program. The School Business Partnerships program recruits new partners, facilitates matches, and handles questions, concerns and organizational matters.
BENEFITS OF PROVIDING A

SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

BENEFITS FOR THE BUSINESS AND THE COMMUNITY:

- Improve school programs by providing real-life experiences for students.
- Increase the students’ and staffs’ understanding of the free enterprise system.
- The opportunity to interact with students, presenting requirements, satisfactions, concerns and expectations of the business world.
- Involvement in the education of Anchorage youth.
- Positive public relations and recognition.

BENEFITS FOR THE SCHOOL:

- Increase resources and services to enhance the education of students and to provide assistance to teachers and administrators.
- Adult role models provide expertise otherwise not available in the classroom.
- Demonstrates to the students how basic skills are used in the work place connecting the relevancy of academics and responsibilities of work outside the classroom.
- Develops a greater understanding and appreciation of the community and business world.
EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Depending on the needs and resources of each partnership, a variety of projects can be undertaken. Listed below are some examples.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT:

- Help students set up mini-businesses. This project includes development of math, language arts, economics, creative and critical thinking and leadership skills.

- Show students new “state of the art” technology, what it has replaced and how it is used.

- Invite business people to take part in discussions with students on major current events.

- Have students interview or observe workers to see how basic skills taught in school are used in the work place. Use as a basis for an oral or written report to the class.

- Provide information to students concerning money and how to handle it, checking accounts, credit and installment buying, investments, and setting up accounting systems.

CULTURAL AWARENESS:

- Establish mentorships between minority students and employees.

- Involve retired employees in partnership activities.

- Provide employees with time away from their work to tutor minority students.

- Have minority student art exhibits or musical performances at your business.

- Provide recognition or awards for special education students.

CAREER ORIENTATION / CAREER PREPARATION:

- Have a career fair for students and parents either at your business or in the school.

- Participate in career fair presentations on a district wide basis.

- Arrange for educator and student tours of your business facility
EXAMPLES CONTINUED

• Provide for student internships or work study programs

• Arrange for employees to help students explore career, vocational, and personal goals.

• Personnel Department share job search techniques with students through applications, resume writing and interviewing skills.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

• Students invite employees to lunch, to spend time in the classroom or special events.

• Students establish “special days” that recognize their School Business Partnership.

• Business representatives are invited to meet administration and staff and tour existing and new programs and facilities in the school.

• Business representatives are introduced to the staff and parent teacher organizations as the school’s new educational partner.

• Business representatives become students for a day, attending classes and special events to gain a better understanding of the education environment.

• Participate in “Executive Exchange and Teacher Exchange Days”.

• Publicize the partnership in school and business newsletters.

• Businesses invite students and staff to spend time in the business, attend meetings and a business luncheon.

• Students and businesses identify a community service project to work on together.
THE PROCESS TO FORMING
A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

Let us know you are interested:
• The School Business Partnership Program is totally voluntary. A program usually begins when you let us know you are interested.
• Or, you can visit our web-site @ www.asdk12.org/depts/sbp. You will find information there that will assist you in the formation of your partnerships.

Tell us what you would like:
• A member of the partnership staff will sit down with you to discuss your needs and resources. We will review the steps necessary to form a partnership and we will listen carefully to what you want to achieve.

Together, we will identify a partner:
• It is our job to assist you to find a partner, a school or a business, who has similar needs and resources. Sometimes there is already a partner interested that we can call immediately.

Set the planning in motion:
• We will set up a meeting with you and your partner to discuss exactly what you want and can accomplish as partners. This meeting is usually the most crucial and creative part of the partnership process. A formal partnership agreement is drawn up and signed by both partners.

Partnership begins:
• Partnership activities which benefit both the school and the business begins.

Program evaluation:
• One of the keys to maintaining a successful partnership is to monitor and evaluate the program. Each year an evaluation will be given to you to complete. This will be done on both the business and education side. Your participation is critical in the assessment of the success of the School Business Partnership Program.
BUSINESS PARTNER

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND
STEPS TO FOLLOW

The following guidelines are suggested to assist the business partner in the development of the partnership.

1. Upper management should have an understanding of and commitment to the program.

2. The Business designates a coordinator with approved on-the-job time for the program. If feasible, a Partnership Committee should also be created.

3. The coordinator and any others working with him should identify possible resources and needs of the business.

4. The coordinator meets with the school coordinator to discuss mutual support services and match resources and needs.

5. The coordinator meets with the Partnership Committee to develop an overall plan and activities.

6. Upper management and the coordinator share the overall plan and activities with employees and encourage them to be positively involved.

7. The coordinator maintains regular communication with the school and the school’s coordinator.

8. The coordinator maintains records that will reflect the business involvement and be able to readily share that information in the School Business Partnership evaluation process.
BUSINESS EXECUTIVE OR ORGANIZATION LEADER ROLE

The Chief Executive Officer or Organization Leader must have a personal and corporate commitment to the School Business Partnership Program. This commitment is evidenced by his/her understanding and approval of the goals of the program and communication of this commitment to all levels of the organization.

Responsibilities:

- Appoint an enthusiastic, competent Coordinator.
- Motivate the organization to positively participate in the program.
- Allow identified resources to be utilized.
- Recommend changes or additional resources to ensure success.
- Stay in touch with the process and progress of the program.
- Express approval and recognition of programmatic achievements and volunteer efforts.
- Confirm the organization’s commitment to the program.
- Encourage recognition of the importance in developing understanding between the business and education community.
BUSINESS COORDINATOR ROLE *

This person is the direct link between the school, the business and the School Business Partnership Program. Experience indicates that this person is most successful if he is at a high enough level to make decisions, is well informed, believes in the value of the program, has an interest in education and a commitment to young people.

Responsibilities:

- Become familiar with the school and work with the school program coordinator.
- Keep Executive level professionals aware of the process and progress of the program.
- Prepare materials, inform and recruit potential company volunteers.
- Obtain support and authorization from supervisors for release of volunteers.
- Arrange orientation and other training/meetings as needed.
- Coordinate the business side of scheduling, placement, time, changes and evaluation.
- Arrange for business recognition of volunteers and in-house promotion of the program.
- Develop the partnership plan along with the school coordinator and the program supervisor.
- Facilitate communication within the business as well as between the business, the school and district.
- Attend periodic coordinator’s meetings.
- Communicate business participation to the School Business Partnership Coordinator.

* Business is used throughout this discussion, but represents local, state and federal government as well as non-profits and other organizations.
BUSINESS RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

1. What kind of training or expertise do our employees have that could be shared with the school? i.e.:

   ~ Computers
   ~ Athletic coaching
   ~ Public speaking
   ~ Photography
   ~ Construction
   ~ Mentoring
   ~ Job preparation
   ~ Crafts and hobbies
   ~ Safety, Health issues
   ~ Graphic Arts, Printing
   ~ Creative writing
   ~ Engineering
   ~ Internships
   ~ Business site visits

2. Are we willing to provide release time from work for employees to take part in school activities?

3. What resources are available for providing incentive awards?

4. What resources are available for providing career awareness programs?

5. Are we interested in working on or co-sponsoring community service projects?

6. Would we sponsor a student club or athletic team?

7. Do we have employees that would be willing to make presentations to students about their profession.

8. Are we able to teach mini-courses?

9. Would we be willing to develop a recognition program for outstanding students or staff members?

10. What can the school do to assist us? What are our needs?
School Business Partnerships offers the business and education community a unique opportunity to build bridges of cooperation for the enhancement of student educational experiences. The ways to become involved are endless, stimulating your creativity and willingness to become pro-actively involved in the future of Anchorage through its students. Some ideas for your participation are as follows:

- Act as mentors or tutors for any subject and any grade level.
- Assist with the Back to School Program at the beginning of school or the Open House in the first month of school.
- Assist with student recognition.
- Assist with teacher/staff recognition.
- Make class presentations on special subjects/projects.
- Help prepare for or judge the Science Fair or other special projects, e.g. Science Olympiad, Battle of the Books.
- Assist with End of the Year programs in May.
- Assist with developing computer technology, Internet, staff or student workshops.
- Assist with special presentations; supervise sport activities, quiet activities, and or games.
- Display student art work and other student achievements.
- Give assistance with field trips or special tours.
- Commit at least one hour per week for your employees to come into school on a pre-arranged basis, to help on pre-assigned topics, e.g. reading to younger students;
- Assist with the development of a service project through which students and your business could give back to the community, e.g. participate together in United Way Day of Caring with in trash pickups, visits to senior centers; hang lights for the Chamber’s City of Lights program together.
- Provide speakers on topics such as solving problems that occur at work, skills necessary to be successful in this particular business.
- Offer field trips to your business and allow students to shadow employees in order to get a sense of the job, what requirements jobs have in common, etc.
- Conduct presentations on all forms of seeking and keeping a job, e.g. resume writing, filling out a job application, interviewing skills, the necessary skills to hold a job, etc.
- Provide on the job training or mentorships, for students.
- Provide expertise as consultants to students in operating school-based enterprises.
- Provide students with opportunities to use technology that is utilized in your business.
- Assist in Curriculum Development, e.g. making the curriculum relevant to life after high school.
- You may have some specific ideas that would be appropriate for the Partnership that are not listed here - let's talk about them.

Thanks for your interest in School Business Partnerships. For further information, call 240-2345.
BUSINESS APPLICATION FORM

Business/Organization: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________ Phone: ____________

Executive: __________________________________________

Administrative Assistant: ____________________________

Business Coordinator: ____________________________

Phone: ____________

Brief description of business/organization: ____________________________

List three possible projects the business is willing to provide: ____________

What are some business needs that the school could fulfill: ____________

Do you have a specific school you would like to partner with?

Other comments: ____________________________
SCHOOL PARTNER

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND
STEPS TO FOLLOW

The following guidelines are suggested to assist the school partner in the development of the partnership.

1. The Principal has an understanding of and commitment to the program.

2. The Principal designates a \textit{coordinator} with approved on-the-job time for the program.

3. The Principal, coordinator and staff meet to determine the educational program needs of the school and the resources which the school can offer to partners.

4. The Principal/coordinator meets with the business to discuss mutual support services and match resources and needs.

5. The Principal identifies a Partnership Committee who with the coordinator meet with the business coordinator to develop an overall plan and activities.

6. The Principal/coordinator share the overall plan and activities with school staff and encourage them to be positively involved.

7. The Principal/coordinator maintains regular communication with the school staff and the business coordinator.

8. The coordinator maintains records that will reflect the business involvement and be able to readily share that information in the School Business Partnership evaluation process.

9. The Principal will introduce the business to the staff and parent organization as the school’s new education partner.

10. The Principal will provide leadership and regular positive recognition of the business partner.
PRINCIPAL ROLE

A Principal who is strongly committed, enthusiastic, and understands the program, is the KEY to success. Leadership from the Principal gives the program increased credibility and impact with the staff, students, parents and the business partner.

Responsibilities:

- Designate a competent and interested school coordinator who has the time to devote to the program.
- Encourage a school environment that contributes to the success of the program.
- Consider new ideas, suggestions and possible changes to make the partnership successful.
- Provide adequate staffing and space for planned partnership activities.
- Work closely with the school coordinator in a co-leadership role.
- Stay in touch with the process and progress of the program.
- Express approval of programmatic achievement and staff efforts.
- Confirm the school’s commitment to the partnership.
- Encourage school and community recognition of the importance in building bridges of understanding between the education and business community.
- Include the business as part of the school community. Invite them to staff meetings, assemblies, social gatherings and parent organization meetings
- Ensure that appropriate recognition for the business partner takes place.
SCHOOL COORDINATOR ROLE

The school partnership coordinator must possess knowledge of the school staff and be a respected member of the school team. He should be committed to the partnership program, have a good mind for detail and follow through, be counted on to do what is agreed upon and be accessible by phone at the school.

Responsibilities:

• Keep the Principal informed about the program’s process and progress.

• Work with the business coordinator and become knowledgeable about the business with which the school is partnered.

• Develop the partnership plan in collaboration with the business coordinator.

• Arrange staff orientation and other training/meetings as needed.

• Promote the program among the school and the school’s community.

• Coordinate school side of scheduling, placement, time, changes and evaluation. Keeping track of the program through regular assessment is key to the continuation and success of the program.

• Arrange for follow-up, thank you notes, and distribution of any program information.

• Keep the District School Business Partnership program informed about the progress of the program and special opportunities to highlight partnership happenings.

• Ensure that appropriate recognition for the business partner takes place.
ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Typical Recognition Ideas

As important as the development of a "Needs List" for the school - is the development of a way to "Recognize" your business Partner. Following are some ideas that can be incorporated into your school culture. This will THANK your business partner and will bring a deeper business commitment in the future.

- Recognize your partner in your school newsletter to parents.
- Recognize your partner in your student newspaper.
- Write a letter to your newspaper editor.
- Have a special Assembly recognizing your business partner/partners.
- Plan a special Business Partner Day.
- Put signs in the Hallways and Bulletin Boards.
- Invite and introduce your partners to a staff meeting.
- Show them where your staff room is / give them a school coffee cup.
- Assign a class or group of students a month to write “thank you” notes.
- Invite them to your PTA meeting for introductions.
- Offer to assist your partner in a Service Learning project.
- Open your school to the business employees - room use, etc.
- Invite your partner to school for your back to school days.
- Find out when the birthday of the CEO - Manager - President - person in charge is and send them a card, letter, on school stationary signed by staff and students. If their birthday is in the summer, pick a day and declare it your time for recognition.
- Have your student newspaper reporters do an article on the Partnership.
- Invite the press in to observe special programs; include TV coverage.
- Offer student art work to the business for their display.
- Create an Awards Assembly to honor your partner.
- Have a contest in your school to come up with unique ways that students can participate in showing their appreciation of the Partnership.
- Keep a journal, make a yearbook of events surrounding the Partnership, present to the business liaison - include pictures - either camera made - or student created and share with your partner.

- You may have other ideas about how to recognize your partner, please share so that we can all do a better job of showing our appreciation.
OPTIONAL

Survey for the Classroom Teacher
Elementary Program

Name:__________________________

Class:__________________________

1. What career education activities do you plan? How can a business partner be involved?

2. Would you like the business to sponsor a contest or a special interest club?

3. Do you have a student with a special need or interest that someone from the business might be able to help?

4. Are there other areas of the curriculum where a business person could help? Such people might include a computer expert, a toastmaster for pointers on public speaking, a speaker on appearance and what employers are looking for in employees, speakers on nutrition, safety, energy and personal finance.

5. Would you be interested in what the business does, as a presentation to your class, or materials that would help explain the business's place in Anchorage and Alaska.

6. Other ideas that you may have?

7. How would you recognize and thank your business partner?

8. How might the school share its resources with the business?
Survey for the Classroom Teacher  
Secondary Program

Name:______________________________________________

Class/Department:____________________________________

1. How would you use the resources of the business partner in your classroom?

2. How could you use the business site to enhance your classes?

3. Do you have a student with a special need or interest that someone from the business might be able to help?

4. What school programs or areas of interest outside the classroom could the business help you with? How?

5. Would you be interested in what the business does, as a presentation to your class, or materials that would help explain the business’s in Anchorage and Alaska.

6. Other ideas that you may have?

7. How would you recognize and thank your business partner?

8. How might the school share its resources with the business?
OPTIONAL

School Business Partnerships

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL APPLICATION

School Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ___________________ Phone: ____________________

Principal: ____________________________________________

Administrative Assistant: _______________________________

Grade Level: ___________ # of Teachers: ____________

# of Students: __________

School Design: 
Open ______ Special Classes _______ Self-contained ________

Brief description of building environment; unique characteristics:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

School Schedule of the day:__________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Areas of need: _____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Suggested School Resources that could be shared with the business partner:__________

________________________________________________________________________
OPTIONAL

School Business Partnerships

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION

School Name:________________________________________________________

Address:_________________________ Phone:___________________________

Principal:________________________________________________________

Administrative Assistant:___________________________________________

Grade Levels:_______________  # of Teachers:__________

# of Students:___________

School Design:
Open_______ Special Classes_________ Self-contained___________

Brief description of building environment; unique characteristics:____________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

School Schedule of the day:__________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

Areas of need:____________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

Suggested School Resources that could be shared with the business partner:____

________________________________________________________________
FORMAT OF A SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

A School Business Partnership is solidified by a formal, written, signed agreement called a MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) between the business or organization and the school. Following are the main components of the agreement.

SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Between
[School Name]
And
[Business or Organization Name]

In [month] of this year, discussions were held between [Name, title and school of at least one rep from school] and [Name, title and company from at least one rep from business or organization]. From the discussions, the following was agreed.

1. [Business or Organization Name] will:

• [List what the business is committing to the partnership, usually 3 or 4 general objectives]
• 
• 
• [Make a general statement about how the partnership is going to be recognized by the business.]
• Other programs may be introduced as the needs of are identified and the capabilities of [Business or Organization Name] are matched.

2. [School name] will:

• [List what the school is committing to the partnership, usually 3 or 4 general objectives]
• 
• 
• [Make a general statement about how the partnership is going to be recognized by the school, e.g. newsletters, banners, etc.]
• Other programs may be introduced as the needs of [Business or Organization Name] are identified and the capabilities of [School name] are matched.

3. The Anchorage School Business Partnership program will:

• recognize [Business or Organization Name] for their positive educational involvement through its publications and other forms of publicity.

Continued on next page
EVALUATION
The SUCCESS of any program is dependent on regular, consistent evaluation of what is going on. The School Business Partnership program is very concerned about maintaining its credibility. Only through evaluations are we able to discern where we are and what we need to do to improve the program. We want the program to meet the needs of both the school and business and to utilize resources so that all will benefit. As stated in the opening statement of this handbook, we are interested in building bridges of understanding and positive working relationships between the business and education communities and enhancing student opportunities.

The School Business Partnership program has developed an evaluation instrument that will provide us with information to correctly reflect how successful the program is. However, the information must come from you. We are depending on both the business and education partner to assist us in understanding what is happening with the program.

Following is the Evaluation Instrument which is distributed once a year during the second semester.
Please evaluate your Partnership using the format below. Your input is valuable in determining the progress of your Partnership as well as providing suggestions and ideas for improvements.

Name of School Partner:__________________________________________________________

Name of Business Partner:________________________________________________________

Evaluation completed by:__________________________________________________________

1. **Program Outcomes:** The overall rating of our Partnership is:
   - ______ Excellent
   - ______ Good
   - ______ Fair
   - ______ Poor

2. **Program Content:** What activities are taking place in your Partnership?
   Check all that apply.
   - ____ Tutoring
   - ____ Mentoring
   - ____ Job Shadow
   - ____ Field Trips
   - ____ Exhibits by Students
   - ____ Student Recognition
   - ____ Staff Recognition
   - ____ Internships
   - ____ Speakers
   - ____ Other

3. **Participation:**
   - How many employees are involved in the Partnership? __________
   - Are you making a financial contribution?  ____ Yes  ____ No
     Approximate amount ____________________________
   - Are you doing “trade outs”?  ____ Yes  ____ No
     Approximate financial value ______________________
   - Approximately how many hours are contributed?
     Per Week ___________ OR  Per Month ___________

4. What are the **BEST QUALITIES** about your Partnership?

5. What would you like to change?

6. On the reverse side, please make a brief statement about your Partnership.

THANKS!!!!!
SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP
EVALUATION

SCHOOLS

Please evaluate your Partnership using the format below. Your input is valuable in determining the progress of your Partnership as well as providing suggestions and ideas for improvements.

Name of Business Partner:_____________________________________________________

Name of School Partner:_______________________________________________________

Evaluation completed by:_______________________________________________________

1. Program Outcomes: The overall rating of our Partnership is:
   ______ Excellent    ______ Good    ______ Fair    ______ Poor

2. Program Content: What activities are taking place in your Partnership?
   Check all that apply.
   ___ Tutoring            ___ Student Recognition
   ___ Mentoring           ___ Staff Recognition
   ___ Job Shadow          ___ Internships
   ___ Field Trips         ___ Speakers
   ___ Exhibits by Students ___ Other

3. Participation:
   • Approximately how many students are involved in the Partnership? ______
   • About how many staff are involved in the Partnership? ____________
   • Approximately how many hours are contributed by your staff?
     Per Week ____________ OR Per Month ____________

4. What are the **BEST QUALITIES** about your Partnership?

5. What would you like to change?

6. On the reverse side, please make a brief statement about your Partnership.
   **THANKS!!!**
The Anchorage School Business Partnership program has been part of the community since 1991. At that time a collaboration was developed between the School District and the Chamber of Commerce called Anchorage School Business Partnerships. The program has since grown to well over 400 partnerships worth in excess of 2 million dollars a year to the School District. Seventy-five (75) % of this amount is time committed to students and staff by the business community. Partnerships are available to all Anchorage School District Schools and all have listed programs. A Non-Profit Corporation representing businesses, school district personnel, parents, and students governs the program. The Board of Directors meets once each month to deal with ongoing issues that include the following: developing new partnerships; managing current and long standing partnerships; regular newsletters; Executive Exchange Day; recognitions for students and staff; internships; on the job training; presentations to students; “Best Practices” publication; End of the Year Celebration for recognized Partnerships; and workshops for interested parties, both education and business.

If you know of businesses, organizations, non-profits or other groups that would be interested in participating in this program, have them look at the following web-site www.asdl12.org/depts/sbp Or, they may call the school district at 240-2345; or the Chamber of Commerce at 272-2401.