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# Indicators of Digital Readiness

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| <b>Indicator</b>            | <b>Community Joint Activity Planning</b> |
| <b>Theme</b>                | <b>Leadership</b>                        |
| <b>Priority Level</b>       | <b>P3</b>                                |
| <b>Organizational Level</b> | <b>District</b>                          |

## **Description of the Indicator**

District leaders have established positive relationships with major community organizations (i.e., they attend meetings, provide school updates, and plan joint community events). District leaders work with key community organizations to identify mutually beneficial goals and to partner on activities that advance those goals (e.g., mutual goal of entrepreneurship with business and industry results in business leaders serving as experts to collaborative student projects; mutual goal of privacy and security of data results in Information Technology internships from high school programming classes).

## **Why is this indicator important?**

Community partners can help schools prepare students for college, career, and citizenship by offering additional opportunities, supports, and enrichment for young people. Strong school–community partnerships are essential for a world-class, 21st century education

## Indicator Rubric

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| <b>Insufficient Evidence of Implementation</b><br><br>(0 Points) | Survey community to see what opportunities for collaboration are available   |
| <b>Foundational Stage of Implementation</b><br><br>(1 Points)    | Evidence is provided for all previous rubric levels, as well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Formally planning to engage the community in viable partnerships and coordinated activities</li></ul>       |
| <b>Achieving Success in Implementation</b><br><br>(2 Points)     | Evidence is provided for all previous rubric levels, as well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● At least 1 partnership has been established and joint community events are on the public calendar</li></ul> |
| <b>Exemplary Success in Implementation</b><br><br>(3 Points)     | Evidence is provided for all previous rubric levels, as well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Multiple partnerships have been established and joint community events are on the public calendar</li></ul> |

### Who in the school/district should lead and be involved with this indicator?

- Superintendents
- School Board Members
- Principals
- Technology Leaders/Instructors
- Curriculum Directors
- Teachers
- Librarians
- Students
- Parents.
- Anyone who has a stake in improving access to technology beyond the school day should have the ability to make their voice heard and provide input to the process

### How to execute the indicator

Below we have listed the requirements for earning points for this Indicator. Following the requirements, we have provided guidance and recommendations on how to meet them. You do not need to follow this guidance exactly as

long as your final outcome meets the requirements.

Sample activities include the following: Surveying the Community - 1-2 Months; Meeting with Community Partners (Potential event co-planers and co-sponsors) - 3-6 months; Developing Formalized Plans with Community Partners - 6-9 Months; Communicating with Community Members (Marketing/Advertising planned events and activities (3-6 Months).

### **Recommended evidence to submit for successful execution of this action**

- Information disseminated to the community through various means of communication including social media, local newspaper, local TV channel, etc. about jointly planned community events and activities that are geared towards technology centric initiatives.
- Community Resource Map (see below).

### **Resources schools can use to complete this action successfully**

- Local groups/organizations such as Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance, Rotary, Public Library, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, sports clubs, religious organizations, local businesses are all potential candidates for joint community event/activity planning.
- Create a Community Resource Map - A visual representation of your community and the various skills people have to offer is a super way to understand what community resources are available. If you build one, also point out the materials people can supply at cost or for free, the time they can invest in projects, and how they can connect to curriculum, and classroom activities. Include the networks they can utilize to raise awareness of the needs of local children and families, and always promote and foster resource-sharing and collaboration. A community resource map can come in the form of a [hand-drawn map](#) (use a [graphic facilitator](#)), Google Map, [Mind Map](#) or even a [spreadsheet with some visual outputs](#).

### **Certified Schools Exemplars: See links for school evidence**

#### **[1. Sycamore Drive Early Childhood Learning Center, Hazlet Township Public Schools, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)**

Sycamore Drive Early Childhood Learning Center engages students in authentic experiences in order to connect with our local community. Our students participated in a Baby Food Drive to help nourish hungry babies in our neighboring towns. Sycamore students also partner with a local charity, Reaching All in Need Everyday, RAINE, by collecting food or items to provide assistance to families for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. In addition, we encourage awareness of our environment through the donation of unwanted plastic materials to the TREX organization for recycling projects. These real-life experiences help our young learners develop a sense of civic duty within their own community.

#### **[2. Memorial School, Old Bridge Township Public Schools, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)**

Teachers, with the support of supervisors and district administration, have developed positive relationships with diverse community organizations that engage parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making and allows for an extension of real world learning. Collaborating with the community offers a broad range of school, family, and community activities within and outside of the school building.

Evidence \* Old Bridge Township Recreation Programs offers students programs. \* Old Bridge Police Department Lead Program Law Enforcement Against Drugs is a relationship between the township and Old Bridge school district to inform students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. \* Old Bridge Public Library offers several programs not onl to the

students but the community of Old Bridge Township. The students take trips to the library to get library cards and are informed by the librarian of the diverse resources available to them and their families all year round. \* Old Bridge Fire Department come to our schools to give fire education programs and provides students with a tour of the firetruck and give junior fire hats to the grade levels involved in the program for the day. \* Footprints for Life is designed to build students' social competencies, which include planning and decision-making skills, interpersonal skills, peaceful conflict resolution skills, cultural competence skills, and resistance skills. \* Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization which evaluates, tests, trains and qualifies owners and their well- behaved dogs as therapy dog teams. \* Rutgers University Literacy Coaching with a partnership with Rutgers University, a reading coach comes onsite to provide coaching professional development to grade-level, RTI and Special education teachers. \* Character Ambassadors work together with the Old Bridge Municipal Alliance to complete service projects. The Student Character Ambassador Program consists of 5th graders from each elementary school in the district. As a group, students work through our community to understand philanthropy and service learning and the Ambassadors learn lessons of generosity, citizenship and charity. \* Make a Wish Letter Writing Campaign- students worked collaboratively through the district and surrounding districts to collect a Believe Letter to support a 7th grade student in the district and his wish to ""Pay it Forward"". This year the students collected 78,964 letters to drop off at Macy's on Wish Day, collecting \$2.00 a letter, raising \$157,928.00 for Make a Wish. \* Relay for Life- the students worked in their schools to promote ""Relay for Life"" and explained the importance of the event and supporting a worthy cause. Students held an ice skating fundraiser, t-shirt sale and bake sale totaling \$2372.00. \* T-Shirt Contest- Students selected a lesson learned through their ""Too Good for Drugs"" class and designed a t-shirt. All elementary schools submitted 1 design per homeroom and voting took place at Friendly's. Friendly's sponsored the contest and had a t-shirt made for the winning class and Student Character Ambassadors. \* Coin Drive is a fundraiser that raises money for high school graduates who were former graduates of Memorial School Cap Day is a student council fundraiser to raise money and awareness for the leukemia and Lymphoma Society. \* Arts Festival is a culmination of music, chorus, art and band which displays the excellent work that the students have practiced all year for. \* Parent University (Photos) is a night of learning for parents and community to learn from the staff members of the Old Bridge Public Schools. \* Old Bridge Township Municipal Alliance is a program is to eradicate illicit drug use and substance abuse throughout the Township. \* Military Day (Military Day Banner) builds the students sense of commitment and pride in citizenship through military exploration day. \* CAP Program Child Assault Prevention program provides services to students so they are aware and learn how to deal/cope in situations of danger.

\* Cooper has been the recipient of two Promising Practice Awards from Character.org in recent years. Coop's Free Little Pantry was created as a way to empower neighbors to help neighbors while simultaneously mitigating the shame that accompanies food insecurity and operates under the mantra of taking what you need and leaving what you can. The Pantry is never locked and is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week enabling students, their families, and the wider community full access whenever they are in need. The Farming Service Project gives students the chance to prepare the land, plant seedlings, tend to the crops, harvest and package the produce to be delivered to the Old Bridge Food Bank while working under the guidance of a local farmer.

### **3. Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center, Washington Township, 2018 Bronze Certified**

We have a televised community calendar that is produced in our district in conjunction with the municipality. This is a link to information about our televised community station: <https://www.wtps.org/Page/6873>

We maintain a thorough calendar of events on our district's website:

<https://www.wtps.org/Page/2#calendar1/20180611/month>

Washington Township School District schools have forged symbiotic community partnerships with the following organizations, businesses, and people: HSC, Police, fire departments, doctors and dentist, drug awareness program, CAP, and community drives