



## Promising Practices in Inclusion: Partners

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### Working Together with Schools

Schools see and work with children all day. They employ people in various specialties and have unlimited resources when it comes to knowledge about how to work with and teach children. Who better is there to partner with than the schools that your programs' children are attending! Not only can your organization learn and benefit from partnerships, but the schools can as well. Some advantages to the partnership include:

- Schools have experience with different types of children when it comes to personalities, interests, abilities, etc.
- If the schools that you are looking at partnering with are the same schools that your program's children attend, they already have trusting and supporting relationships with the teachers and other employees there.
- Teachers have summers off and possibly some would be willing to help out at your organization.
- Schools can help by recruiting youth for your organization.
- Both your organization and the school can benefit by sharing resources, such as books, supplies, building space, and outdoor recreational areas.
- Schools that are not already inclusive can benefit by learning the importance of becoming inclusive and witness the positive outcomes first hand.
- Schools that are already inclusive can teach you some best practices from when they made their transition.
- Schools and programs such as the one that your organization offers are where children probably spend the most amount of time in groups of children their own age. When you work together with schools, children will be able to have more opportunities to learn about valuing, respecting, and enjoying diversity.
- If you assess areas of need that schools around you may have, you can then offer programs that can assist to alleviate those needs to children of all abilities. This could help to recruit more children to your programs.

### Resources

#### A How-To Guide for School- Business Partnerships

Guide created by The Council for Corporate and School Partnerships that provides the best way to create a successful partnership with a school.  
[http://www.corpschoolpartners.org/pdf/coke\\_how\\_to\\_guide.pdf](http://www.corpschoolpartners.org/pdf/coke_how_to_guide.pdf)

### Camp-School Partnership Language

A case study

The American Camp Association released a guide book on the process of camps creating partnerships with schools. They included a list of common camp terms matched with their equivalent term used in educational settings:

Activities/Programs	→	Curricular Experiences
Fun	→	Enrichment
Hands on	→	Experimental
Program Leader	→	Curriculum Specialist
Results	→	Outcomes
Season	→	Semester
Counselors	→	Teachers/Instructors
Coping Skills	→	Education Skills
Program Guidelines	→	Standards of Learning
Outdoor Education	→	Analytical Skills

An understanding of these phrases can help communication between camps and schools and allow for more successful partnerships.

View the guidebook at: <http://www.acacamps.org/cspsg.doc>  
(Information is from American Camp Association, an organization that works to ensure the quality of camp programs. Visit their site at <http://www.acacamps.org>)

### Background

The Inclusion Initiative was launched by the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation in 2002. With nearly \$10 million in grants and leveraged funds invested in more than two dozen youth programs to date, the initiative has impacted the lives of thousands of youth with and without disabilities across the U.S.

MEAF and its Inclusion Initiative partners developed *Paths to Inclusion*, a guidebook to inclusion for youth-serving organizations. This series of "Promising Practices" expands on the guidebook, offering short summaries and examples of inclusion philosophy, policies, programs and partners. The series can be found at [www.meaf.org](http://www.meaf.org).

