



# Engaging Community Supports

Connecting with family serving agencies in your community is a great way to support families in your school. Collaborate with local agencies to create important community partnerships through sharing resources and reaching a greater breadth of families. This results in benefits for both schools and community agencies.

## Steps to Collaboration

*Adapted from Calgary Board of Education "Pathways to Partnership Schools, Families and Community: A Guide to Creating Effective Partnerships between CBE Schools and Immigrant Serving Agencies"*

### #1: Determine the Need

- Determine what the needs are of families in your school community.
- Decide on what your goals and objectives for this partnership will be.
- Find out what local family serving agencies exist in your community to meet these needs.

Ask yourself these questions as you consider what existing agencies you might like to partner with:

- Who do the services target?
- When are they available?
- How much do they cost?
- How accessible are they?
- Are they being well used?
- What barriers might exist to their use?
- Do people in the community feel that these services meet their needs?
- How could they be better delivered?
- Do possible partnership opportunities exist?

(Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, 2006, p.10)

### #2: Create an Action Plan

Before making contact with the agencies you wish to partner with:

- Make a preliminary plan for your partnership program
- Draft a proposal that outlines what roles the school and the agency will play in this partnership. What resources will be shared? How will each partner benefit? How will families benefit?
- Determine timelines, outcomes, and key contacts for the program you are proposing

### #3: Form a Relationship

Make contact with the agency and determine how you will work together



#### #4: Collaborate and Implement

- Create a formal plan that defines the programs that this partnership will offer and the resources that will be shared
- Determine a governance structure and communication strategies
- Determine how you will share information about this partnership and get families involved

As you begin to seek out community support services in your area, check out these website and guides to learn about agencies located around the city of Calgary:

#### **Community Supports Guide:**

[S4 Visual Directory](#)

#### **Searchable Databases:**

[Inform Alberta](#)

[Calgary & Area Community Resource Database](#)

[Canadian Association of Family Resources Programs](#)



## References and Further Reading

Calgary Board of Education [CBE]. (2005). *Pathways to partnership schools, families and community: A guide to creating effective partnerships between CBE schools and immigrant serving agencies*. Retrieved from

[www.cbe.ab.ca/partners/pathways/pathways.pdf](http://www.cbe.ab.ca/partners/pathways/pathways.pdf)

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth. (2006). *Community schools: A support document for partners in the community schools partnership initiative*. Retrieved from [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/cspi/documents/support\\_doc.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/cspi/documents/support_doc.pdf)

National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education [NCPIE]. (n.d). Developing partnerships. *National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education*. Retrieved July 19, 2013 from: [www.ncpie.org/DevelopingPartnerships](http://www.ncpie.org/DevelopingPartnerships)