



**WARREN**

The Future Begins Here

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WARREN TOWNSHIP

## Ten Tips for Successful Partnerships

- ❖ **Win-Win** – Make sure all partners can benefit from the results of the partnership.
- ❖ **Mission Match** – Partners must have similar objectives, goals, and ideals. Make sure each organization’s mission can be furthered through the partnership.
- ❖ **Clarity of Purpose** – Partners need to establish clear objectives, including a definition of their individual roles.
- ❖ **Depth of Commitment** – Partners must be able to commit required resources for the full length of time necessary.
- ❖ **Shared Resources** – Whether knowledge, expertise, staff time or financial support, partners must contribute resources that become the shared property of the partnership.
- ❖ **Open Communication** – Easy and frequent communication between partners is a must. As conditions change, partners must have the ability to update one another on issues critical to the success of the partnership, such as changes in leadership, staffing, funding levels, or community support.
- ❖ **Continuous Evaluation** – Is the partnership working? Have the objectives been achieved? Conduct periodic evaluations throughout the length of the partnership to answer these crucial questions.
- ❖ **Broad-Based Support** – Garner support from key stakeholders, including key decision makers and the broader community before entering a partnership. This support will help your partnership weather changes in leadership and the political environment.
- ❖ **Know Your Partners** – Make the effort to learn about your partners, their company culture, social agenda, involvement in the community, and other community alliances. In return, be prepared to share similar information about your school or district.
- ❖ **Showcase Your Successes** – Issue periodic newsletters highlighting significant accomplishments and invite the community and media, if appropriate, to visit your program. This important aspect of partnerships is all too often overlooked by harried educators eager to move on to the next challenge. Trumpeting your own success can lay wonderful groundwork for the next partnership.

