

A Closer Look at Existing School District Partnerships

	Questions	Yes	No	Need to Assess
1	Our school district has a clear understanding of the services provided by our different local health partner(s)?			
2	Our school district has a clear understanding of our local health partners' capacity to enroll?			
3	Is it clear how joining this partnership will facilitate the achievement of our school districts' enrollment goals?			
4	Does our school district have the resources- financial, people and technology- needed to contribute our portion of the partnership being considered?			
5	Can we honestly say that resources are accessed when required?			
6	Are we willing and able to work in collaboration and mutuality with this local health partner?			
7	Have we worked before with any similar health partner, and was that a positive experience?			
8	Are we willing to share control and participate in shared decision making with these particular health partners?			
9	Are we willing and able to be flexible about how things get done and not be insistent that it be done our way, and will this meet our expectations of quality work?			
10	Have we in the past, and are we now able to work with our less resourced partners with mutual respect, avoiding any sense of domination and superiority? Would these health partners give us high rating in this regard?			
11	Is there support for this initiative in our school district, and would this partnership become a valuable part of our school district's portfolio?			
12	Can we commit to devoting the leadership and management time required of us in this partnership effort?			
13	Have we had sufficient experience in working with partnerships so that we can say that our "partnering" competencies are good enough to carry our performance commitments?			
	Goals			
1	Assess whether your school district has a real concern about existing partnership(s), perhaps the partnership is not right for your district right now.			
2	Assess whether your district has some concerns. Does your school district need to give special attention devoted to what concerns your district most?			
3	Assess if your district thinks this is a fairly good partnering opportunity that may need some improvement and strengthening and if so, in what areas?			
4	Assess if the partnership(s) are a good partnering opportunity and sustainable.			

Adapted from "The Capacity Project Toolkit. Partnership Building: Practical Tools to Help You Create, Strengthen, Assess and Manage Your Partnership or Alliance More Productively"; Wilma Gormley and Laura Guyer- Miller; United States Agency for International Development; March 2007 <http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/knowledge/toolkit/35.pdf?ua=1>