

THEME D **Prioritize community outreach and access**



Nonprofit community service providers, often described as the backbone of the community, were frequently cited as essential assets by community partners, funders, and union representatives. This underscores their importance and the community's reliance on their services. For example, organizations like the YMCA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and local food banks provide crucial support that helps students and families overcome challenges related to food insecurity, mentorship, and after-school care. Additionally, external stakeholders, including Allegheny County Department of Human Services, higher education institutions like the University of Pittsburgh, cultural organizations such as the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, and advocacy groups like A+ Schools, were identified as valuable resources that contribute significantly to the well-being and development of students.

While many partners already do exceptional work for our students, Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) recognizes the need to better leverage these community resources to enhance student outcomes and experiences. Theme D initiatives aim to strengthen partnerships and align systems to provide families with the resources they need to better support their children.

Additionally, PPS could collaborate more closely with local businesses to create internship and job-shadowing opportunities for high school students, particularly those from historically marginalized communities. These partnerships could help bridge the gap between education and the workforce, providing students with real-world experiences that align with their career interests.

By fostering stronger collaboration with community partners, PPS seeks to create a more supportive and enriching environment for all students, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive both academically and emotionally. These efforts could include regular community forums where parents, teachers, and local organizations come together to share ideas, identify needs, and co-create solutions that address the unique challenges faced by Pittsburgh's diverse student population.