

Strategic Plan | Specific Result Report

Goal 8 Action Plan Year 2 Priorities – 2025-2026

Call to Action:

Katy ISD learners, through active engagement, achieve individual success while making positive contributions in an ever-changing world.

Goal 8:

Katy ISD will engage its entire community to develop and implement intentional strategic relationships which capitalize on the strengths, resources, and talents of all stakeholders.

Specific Result 8.4:

Research the options for a new and improved campus community partnership platform.

Summary Report:

Following the 2019-2020 Strategic Plan (Result 7.2), Katy ISD's Partners in Education (PIE) launched a "Partner Portal" via VOLY.org to centralize campus-business connections. While the concept was well-received, stakeholders later reported communication constraints, and use of the system decreased over time, which prompted Specific Result 8.4.

To identify a new and improved platform, PIE evaluated feedback from liaison surveys, stakeholder focus groups, and internal usage reports. Partners and campuses specifically requested enhanced two-way messaging, reliable notification systems, and a simplified process.

After reviewing more than 10 subscription-based engagement platforms, PIE determined that campus and partner needs could be addressed through a streamlined, locally managed solution. Built with SharePoint and Microsoft Forms, the updated Partner Portal includes an internal system and a password-protected external site on the Katy ISD website. The transition eliminated VOLY.org and saved the district \$10,000 annually.

The impact was immediate: in less than two months, the new platform generated over 25 fulfillments, surpassing the previous three years combined.

The updated Partner Portal continues to facilitate requests and donations. To further support engagement, quarterly updates are sent to all organizations on the PIE Business & Community Partners list, and campus needs posted on the Partner Portal are shared with the Community Engagement Advisory Team.