VOLUSIA PARTNERS

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Volusia Partners program is to encourage the involvement of businesses and civic organizations in our schools; thereby enhancing student learning, enriching curriculum, and promoting school improvement.

DESCRIPTION

Recognizing that a strong public school system is essential to the prosperity of our community, Volusia Partners take an active role in our schools. Partnership activities may include, but are not limited to:

- sponsorship of school events, programs or workshops
- student recognition and incentive awards
- financial contributions or donations of materials/equipment
- employee release time to mentor, tutor or read to students
- volunteers for school events
- adoption of a classroom, grade level or school
- career or topic speakers

Partnership agreements must be completed and signed annually after partnership activities are agreed upon.

QUALIFICATIONS

Businesses or civic organizations of any size may serve as a Volusia Partner. Partnerships should be structured to meet the identified needs of the school. Schools often compile a "Wish List" for possible partnership activities. Businesses/organizations may also help School Advisory Councils achieve their identified objectives.

TRAINING

Orientation and training are especially important when a partner becomes a classroom volunteer. Teachers provide direct training to classroom helpers and the district provides training to volunteer mentors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call your local school and ask to talk with the business partner coordinator OR contact:
Partnership, Mentors, and Volunteers
200 N. Clara Avenue, DeLand, FL 32720
(386) 734-7190, ext. 20221 or 20668
www.vcsedu.org, select Community > Volunteers

WHAT PARTNERS CAN DO FOR SCHOOLS

- ❑ Provide release time for employees to tutor, mentor, or read to students.
- ❑ Encourage parental involvement for employees through worksite displays and/or publications.
- ❑ Provide incentives for students who have improved in attendance, academics, behavior, attitude, citizenship, etc.
- ❑ Provide career shadowing or career mentoring opportunities for students or teachers at the partner's site.
- ❑ Donate used equipment or surplus materials.
- ❑ Serve on the School Advisory Council.
- ❑ Serve as judges for various school events.
- ❑ Sponsor school beautification projects.
- ❑ Sponsor field trips.
- ❑ Offer field trips of your facility.
- ❑ Assist with the school newsletter or other publications.
- ❑ Provide display space for student artwork.
- ❑ Serve as guest speakers on career awareness topics or special interests.
- ❑ Provide an assembly program for students.
- ❑ Adopt a classroom, grade level, or school.
- ❑ Sponsor special programs or school clubs.
- ❑ Provide educational or curriculum support materials.
- ❑ Provide part-time employment for students.
- ❑ Provide seminars for students, parents, faculties, and/or administrators.
- ❑ Provide student internship opportunities.
- ❑ Provide tours or host meetings/special events.
- ❑ Assist with school fundraising activities.
- ❑ Participate in school events.
- ❑ Provide recognition to teachers.
- ❑ Sponsor contests in art, writing, math, reading, etc.
- ❑ Offer free services that are unique to your business.
- ❑ Sponsor needy families at holidays.
- ❑ Provide scholarships.

Revised June 2025

WHAT SCHOOLS CAN DO FOR PARTNERS

- ❑ Thank your partner often. Notes from students helped by the partnership are particularly effective.
- ❑ Provide end-of-year evaluations of partnership activities. Compare new data to baseline data.
- ❑ If your school has a monthly newsletter or calendar for parents, provide space for a partnership column.
- ❑ Provide space in the school to highlight partnership activities.
- ❑ Invite your partner to serve on advisory committees, task forces. etc.
- ❑ Put your partner on your mailing list. Communicate!
- ❑ Invite partners to all volunteer recognition events.
- ❑ Recognize new partnerships on the school marquee.
- ❑ Provide visibility by submitting partnership information to be used in press releases, human-interest articles, and school publicity.
- ❑ Give an update on partnership activities at PTA/PTSA/PTO meetings and introduce partners.
- ❑ Provide your partners with an inside look at your school. Tour the school and explain the curriculum.
- ❑ Encourage student groups to perform for company functions.
- ❑ Initiate a student Partners Club or have the Student Council assist with recognizing partnership activities.
- ❑ Obtain the birthdays of employees and have children help by sending birthday cards.
- ❑ Invite your partner to shadow a teacher or administrator.
- ❑ If applicable, have students submit designs that will be chosen by the partner for holiday cards or publications.
- ❑ Invite your partner to participate in community projects with your school, i.e. food baskets at Thanksgiving.
- ❑ Share school and student successes with partners, particularly where the partner has been involved.
- ❑ Ask businesses to participate in special events and programs.
- ❑ Thank your business during Florida School Volunteer Month and National Volunteer Week, 19-25, 2025.
- ❑ Design a logo or utilize the business's logo to brand the individual partnership activities/programs.

Volusia Partners
supports the
Florida Association of Partners in Education