



Smithtown Central School District

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District Position Paper

Topic: Partnerships

The Smithtown Central School District works tirelessly to provide students with relevant, engaging, and real-world lessons inside each of our classrooms. These lessons are further enriched when we have the opportunity to partner with members of our community to extend and apply student learning beyond the classroom. The Board of Education, administration, and faculty have made it a goal to strengthen the relationship between the community and schools for the benefit of our students.

The Smithtown Industry Advisory Board (IAB), which is now in its 45th year, has provided our students with myriad industry-based experiences and hands-on learning opportunities for decades. Local professionals, business owners, parents, and educators work together to provide students with cooperative work experiences, mentorships, internships, and field trips. The IAB has developed outstanding programs such as STEM Career Day, International Business Career Day, and Business Olympics, in addition to serving as mentors for DECA, FCCLA, and Robotics through our Career and Technical Education (CTE) program.

This year, the district has expanded its outreach and formed new partnerships with both the Town of Smithtown and Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD). The Town of Smithtown has been working with the district on a STEM Partnership, which has provided behind-the-scenes access to Town facilities and to the expertise of its personnel in an effort to enhance our science program and deepen the connection students have with our community and local natural resources. The SCPD has been conducting grade-level presentations across the district as part of a school and community safety initiative. SCPD School Resource Officers have been speaking with students on topics such as violence and bullying, internet safety and cyberbullying, vaping and e-cigarettes, and alcohol and drug abuse. In addition to these programs, the SCPD participated in the district's annual Evening College Fair for recruiting and career exploration, visited schools with members of the K9 unit, and has supported the district's PLTW Biomedical Science program, just to name a few.

In addition to those highlighted above, students and families benefit from school-community partnerships with many other entities such as the Smithtown Public Library, Paws of War, St. Catherine's Hospital, Memorial Sloan Kettering, the Smithtown Historical Society, the Smithtown Children's Foundation, the Suffolk County Department of Labor, and local chambers of commerce. The list is truly endless!

These represent only a few of the many community partnerships that have been formed to provide Smithtown students with the ability to match school-based learning with meaningful real-world practice and to build appreciation and respect for all our community partners do. The district sincerely appreciates the countless hours that all of our community partners and volunteers have dedicated to making these experiences and opportunities available. Together, the entire community works hand in hand to open doors for each and every student so that they may explore every possible pathway life has to offer.