

Partnership Activity

In this activity, you will pretend you are establishing summer math camps in a school district. After a short scenario, you will be given a list of district stakeholder groups that you will need to partner with to succeed. You will then be asked to prioritize three that you will need to make contact with first.

Scenario

You work for a nonprofit agency that provides after-school enrichment programs for underserved middle school students. One of your tasks is to set up a summer “math camp” program in your community’s school district to help struggling students catch up and prepare for state exams. You will need to:

- Identify school sites for the camps
- Arrange for access to the schools at the times needed
- Recruit and train 20 AmeriCorps members to serve as math tutors
- Monitor and evaluate the math camps over the course of the summer

You will need to partner with all of the following stakeholders to succeed. However, three of them are especially important in the beginning phases of your program, and you should meet with them first. Which are they?

Select three of the following stakeholder groups, and then check your answers on the next page.

- A. Parent-teacher associations
- B. District superintendent
- C. Students
- D. School principals
- E. Teachers

Answers

A. **Parent-teacher associations**

No. You will want to market your program to parents eventually, and will need them to give permission for their children to participate. However, you need to set up the program first, and parents do not have direct decision-making power for the use of the district resources you need.

B. **District superintendent**

Yes. The superintendent will need to sign off on any activity or group that uses district buildings or staff time. He or she can also help you by influencing or requiring other district staff to assist you.

C. **Students**

No. Although students are the ultimate beneficiaries, you have much work to do in getting your program up and running before you can begin recruiting participants.

D. **School principals**

Yes. Principals must approve how their buildings are used, and will need to make arrangements to have their schools open and available for your math campers. They can also influence or require their teachers and staff to help you.

E. **Teachers**

Yes. Teachers are responsible for the instruction of children in their schools, and will want to be fully informed of extracurricular activities that can impact their students' progress. They could also be a source of referrals to your program.