

Partnerships and Capacity Building

What does success look like and how do you get there?

The goal

A public-private education partnership (PPEP) is a way to increase enrolment, student outcomes and cost efficiencies. Typically the private sector functions as operator and the public sector as financier, creating a complex but potentially positive arrangement for both parties.¹

How do you negotiate a productive partnership?

For a PPEP to work, both partners must commit to the power of education to transform lives, communities, institutions, and nations. With a clear understanding of all organizations involved you can ensure the greatest possible teamwork and success can be achieved. Open communication is key.

Technology is also an important facilitator. Many schools enter into PPEPs with private partners that can meet the technology needs of the project. It's important to research the history, mindset, cultural sensitivity and financial stability of your potential partner to ensure they can bring to the table what you need in the short-term and long-term. It's also worth checking whether your partner brings additional expertise in planning, curriculum development, assessment, quality assurance and personalized learning environments, as you may be able to benefit from best practice transformation strategy.

The four pillars of a PPEP transformation

- **Vision Making** – Crafting a vision coupled with planning and shared goals will become your roadmap for the future. It must be culturally appropriate and embraced by all groups involved²
- **Leadership** – Combining transformational, shared leadership, and situational leadership helps meet the complex management of PPEPs. It is important to be adaptive to the social, cultural, economic, motivational and ethnic norms of your local area^{3,4,5,6}
- **Leading Change** – Appoint leaders who can promote and communicate the change process, its benefits and strategies to achieve the vision
- **Innovation** – Schools often mistake innovation for technology.^{7,8} Innovation is new policies, processes, procedures, curriculum and pedagogical practices. If technology is relevant, include a dialogue about managing potential 'downsides' – privacy, cyber-bullying, inappropriate content, etc.^{9,10}

Education Transformation Framework



Guiding questions

How can we develop strong, agile teams that support a dynamic education landscape?

What is the process for enlisting trusted partners?

Will these partners support both short-term and long-term objectives?

How can we get our entire community on board?

Is our proposed strategy sustainable and scalable?

How can we prepare teachers and staff for new learning environments?

How will we develop digital learning content?

How will we assess digital learning?

How can technology help quality assurance?

Although no particular software, service or hardware is recommended for a PPEP, it is widely recognized that the right technology can act as a facilitator between organizations. Technology is shown to significantly improve effectiveness, efficiency and the citizen-centric focus of government services and programs.¹¹

Resources

Whitepaper: Public, Private, and Community Partnerships for Employability

This paper is written by Dr. Don Olcott, Jr., President of HJ Global Associates, which is an organization focusing on open and distance learning, global higher education, and educational leadership. It illustrates how PPEPs can be catalysts for systematic change, creating a 'community for innovation' that harnesses the human imagination and creativity for changing lives, organizations, communities and nations.

The complete version is available at microsoft.com/education/leaders

Workshop: Implementation Plan for Education Transformation

To organize a workshop, contact your Microsoft Education Specialist.

References

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