

School Connections

What are school connections and how do they benefit children and families?

“Building respectful relationships between the school-day and afterschool staff creates a foundation that allows staff to trust each other, plan together, share a common vision, and share responsibility for student success.” *Young, P. G. (2011, November). Relationships among leaders key to aligning the learning day. School-Age NOTES, 32(3), 3–6.*

Young’s comment echoes the well-known proverb, “It takes a whole village to raise a child.” If we embrace this philosophy, we continually communicate with one another to share children’s strengths and interests and to plan for their needs and the needs of families.

How is it possible to embrace “A Village” philosophy?

Ask your team

- Do we know what happens in each other’s educational settings?
- How do we find this out?
- What are the commonalities beyond educating the same children?

How is it possible to build trusting relationships?

Ask your team

- Does the school know who our leaders are and vice versa?
- Who has connections with the other educational settings?
- What first steps should we take towards relationship building?
- How do we make the relationship a priority?

For more information:

CONNECTING SCHOOL AND AFTERSCHOOL 15 WAYS TO IMPROVE PARTNERSHIPS
https://www.naesp.org/resources/1/A_New_Day_for_Learning_Resources/Building_and_Sustaining_Partnerships/Connecting_School_and_Afterschool_15_Ways_to_Improve_Partnerships.pdf

ADVOCACY FOR AFTERSCHOOL
<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/PA-afterschool-facts.pdf>

BUILDING SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS (SEE PAGE 4 Insight #2)
http://www.sedl.org/insights/2-1/building_supportive_relationships_in_afterschool.pdf