Practices That Build Meaningful School–Community Partnerships

Partnerships between schools and communities are essential for student success. But, many communities run into obstacles when they try to build authentic, meaningful collaboration. This table outlines challenges we repeatedly witness in our work, and practices that lead to stronger, lasting partnerships between schools and communities:



Common Challenges

The district **does not understand** community needs or how to meet them.

Family engagement is treated as a **one-time activity or add-on.**

There is **mistrust** between schools and communities.

The district views community organizations as "outsiders."

There are **limited resources** (including people, time, and money).



Strong Practices

Engage in **transparent discussions** of needs and priorities.

Embed family engagement into school and district systems.

Develop trust through consistent, meaningful **relationship-building**.

Recognize organizations as partners and allies.

Invest in resources that sustain partnership work.

MAEC can partner with your district to put these stronger practices into action.

We provide professional development, coaching, and strategic planning that help schools and communities thrive together.

Contact info@maec.org or scan the QR code to learn more.



