

## MOBILIZING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION

*by:*

**Vanessa V. Nava**

*Teacher III, Limay National High School*

The partnerships between schools and individuals, businesses, private organizations, and institutions that can take advantage of community resources and support students in achieving positive learning development constitute the role of the community. The concept that the community plays a significant role in the development of quality education has a long history and is a core idea of education reform. Community members working together can ensure the safety of school staff, learners, and schools. Community agencies that collaborate with systems such as child welfare and enforcement agencies provide protective factors that can lead to student perseverance while also assisting in the efficient and effective resolution of institutional issues and concerns. Schools with strong ties to their communities can foster a safe and supportive learning environment inside and outside of the school.

Schools face increasing responsibilities as they strive to educate a new generation of learners that is diverse and described as being at risk of not meeting the changing demands of society. Many schools and education systems are scrambling to fulfill their basic educational missions due to the social and emotional demands of learners from diverse backgrounds. Opportunities to collaborate with community stakeholders can assist schools in meeting student needs that they may not be able to address on their own.

With changing family demographics, demanding workplace dynamics, and increasing student distinctiveness, the traditional school operation is becoming ineffective. As a result, it is vital for schools to encourage the involvement of the larger local community. The assistance of community organizations enables community

stakeholders to better help in sustaining the needs and support of the learners, thereby assisting in the establishment of proper learning conditions and enhancing the school climate for all. Community members and organizations can lead services such as tutoring, extended learning activities, and daily volunteer efforts to help learners in the school community. With the fast-changing nature of economic development, communities operate in a more dynamic environment that necessitates innovation and flexibility. Students need advanced skills like linguistic knowledge for communication, technical know-how for operation, and interpersonal skills for collaboration to succeed at every opportunity. School-community partnerships, particularly those involving connections with local businesses, civic leaders, and other community individuals, are encouraged to provide schools assistance in preparing students for their future endeavors. Community organizations and groups can provide students with opportunities and resources to become involved in their community. This will help learners gain the knowledge and skills they need as they walk the paths they are interested in pursuing.

Everyone benefits when schools and the community collaborate to support learning. Partnerships have the potential to strengthen, sustain, and even redefine individual collaborators, resulting in higher program quality, more effective resource use, and a better outline of objectives and curricula. Additionally, awareness-raising promotions can assist parents and community members in understanding the reasons for and advantages of their children's participation in school. Furthermore, they will be educated about the various engagement opportunities, guidelines, and initiatives, as well as realize that participation is open to all.

With the assistance of other community members and school personnel, community participation in the school can be fostered. Encouragement from active leaders to empower more community members to get involved by making them feel accountable for the success of the learning process is a better strategy. Maintaining open, firm, systematic, consistent, and effective communication with key stakeholders is

essential. Students, teachers, and family members all feel a sense of belonging when there is a strong school-community relationship. It expands students' educational experiences while also creating a welcoming learning environment. It instills a sense of accountability in all stakeholders. This is because everyone in the community understands how important they are to students' learning. The key to establishing strong bonds is to develop a clear, shared vision.

*References:*

<https://policytoolbox.iiep.unesco.org/policy-option/school-community-relationship/>

<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/training-technical-assistance/roles/community>