

## Foreword

Many schools working to improve their programs of family and community involvement are struggling to find meaningful community partners. They puzzle: Where *is* our community? Is it around the school? Where students live? Where families work or worship? What are the community's interests in our students' success? Educators also wonder: How can we make sure that our community partners work with us collaboratively, not contentiously, to help improve the school program and increase students' success?

In *Building school-community partnerships: Collaboration for student success*, Mavis G. Sanders addresses these and other questions with excellent information, examples, and advice. She explains clearly how to include school-community connections (e.g., businesses, cultural groups, senior citizens, faith-based organizations, universities, and other partners) in comprehensive programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

Sanders has conducted groundbreaking research for over a decade, delving deeply into ways that elementary, middle, and high schools work successfully with community partners, resolve challenges, and sustain collaborations. She developed a complete catalog of community partners and identified an array of school-community activities that strengthen families, expand students' learning experiences, and improve school programs and curricula.

Because most research on partnerships has focused on schools and families, this book on school-community connections is a welcome and timely resource for researchers, for school and district leaders, and for teams of school-based educators, parents, and community partners who work together to develop and improve their programs of school, family, and community partnerships. Sanders' work – sharp, insightful, and comprehensive – will guide future research and help schools and school districts improve their partnership programs.

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