



# PARTNERS in EDUCATION







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BarrowCountySchools



BCSchools1



BarrowCountySchools



[www.barrow.k12.ga.us](http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us)

"You need a strong community to have a strong school system. Conversely, you can't have a strong community without a strong school system. The two have to work hand-in-hand to realize true success."





# OVERVIEW

The Partners in Education program is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between an organization and the Barrow County School System for one year.

This program began in 1991 as Akins Ford and a handful of businesses joined forces to develop partnerships that would link the community and the school system.

This is an opportunity for businesses and schools to work together on a common goal: giving children a well-rounded education. Partnerships directly benefit students by giving them "real-world" experiences and incentives to help them excel.

As a school system and community, it is imperative that we work together to bring the best of both worlds to our children. The time and resources you have to offer are invaluable to our schools and students.



## A HANDSHAKE, NOT A HANDOUT

# PARTNER IN EDUCATION LEVELS

The foundation of the Partner in Education program rests upon 4-Stars. Each star represents an area of collaboration and involvement between the organization and the school.

A 4-Star partner commits to fulfilling at least one activity in each of the categories during the school year: Student Motivation & Achievement, Teacher & Staff Appreciation, and School & Community Involvement. The 4th Star is how the school (s) or district shows our appreciation for your involvement & support.

As a **School Partner in Education**, your organization will work with a School PIE Coordinator to customize an annual PIE Plan of involvement in each of the 4 categories.

Some businesses choose to partner with multiple schools. **Multi-School Partners in Education** commit to working with at least nine schools or programs of their choosing.

**District Partners in Education** follow the same 4-Star program. A custom plan will be developed to help identify how to get involved in each of our schools and programs.





# 4-STAR PROGRAM

## ★ STUDENT MOTIVATION & ACHIEVEMENT

There are endless areas in which you can help our students find success.

- Academic Achievement
- Attendance
- Character & Citizenship
- Extracurriculars & Athletics
- Career Exploration
- Mentoring

## ★ TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION

Teachers are the most critical component to student success. Teacher appreciation helps to motivate them to excel and focus on the students, even when it's a hard day. When you say "thank you for serving our students," it goes a long way in teacher retention, happiness, and overall performance. Staff appreciation also helps to ensure school operations run smoothly - whether that's in the cafeteria, office, or clinic.

## ★ SCHOOL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Amazing things happen when businesses and organizations get involved in a school. This star is focused on making connections between the school and the community.

Your organization could choose to collaborate with a school on a joint community service project or perhaps you can help the school fundraise for other school-related needs. Community reinvestment with the students and teachers help to make our community a better place.

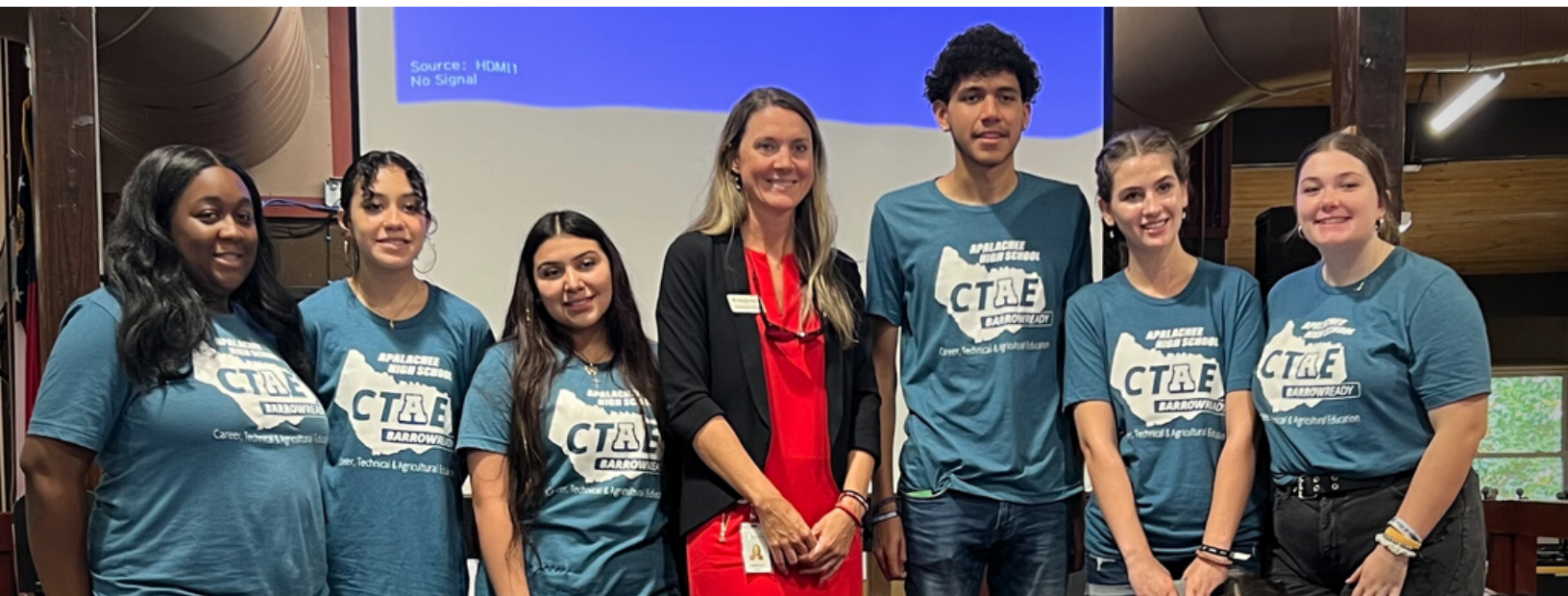




# 4-STAR PROGRAM

## ★ PARTNER APPRECIATION

The fourth star is the school system's opportunity to shine on **your** organization for the commitment you've made and the various ways you've contributed to our schools. It is our intentional focus to say thank you, both privately and publicly, for the positive impact your organization and employees have made.





# OTHER PROGRAM LEVELS

Companies can also be a **"Partner Pal"** in which they are involved with multiple schools and/or the district in select areas of focus.

When organizations would like to get involved in a school or the district on a smaller scale, they can become a **"Friend of the School"** or **"Friend of the District."** This partnership involves businesses in a one-time project. "Friends" can provide needed products, services, finances, or hands-on help to students and faculty.

These program levels are less formal than the "4-Star" Partner in Education program. There is not a written plan or agreement, but is viewed as a "Piece of the Pie." These programs are also supported by the school and district Partner in Education Coordinators.

## PROGRAM SUPPORT

The Partners in Education program is part of the fabric of our school system, and we support it with designated personnel.



### System Level Support

School and Community Relation Specialist Ellen Petree focuses on District Partners in Education for Barrow County Schools. She helps to develop custom plans for how they partner with schools and programs. Ellen also trains and supports the Partner in Education Coordinator at each school.

### School Level Support

Each school or program has a designated Partner in Education Coordinator. The school coordinator works with organizations to develop a plan for how they'd like to get involved for that year and at what program level.

Coordinators also work closely with District, Multi-School, and Partner Pals. School Partner in Education Coordinators act as the connection between school administrators and teachers with our community partners at all levels.