



Better Together:

Building Effective Partnerships with Public Libraries
to Support Literacy & Community Transformation

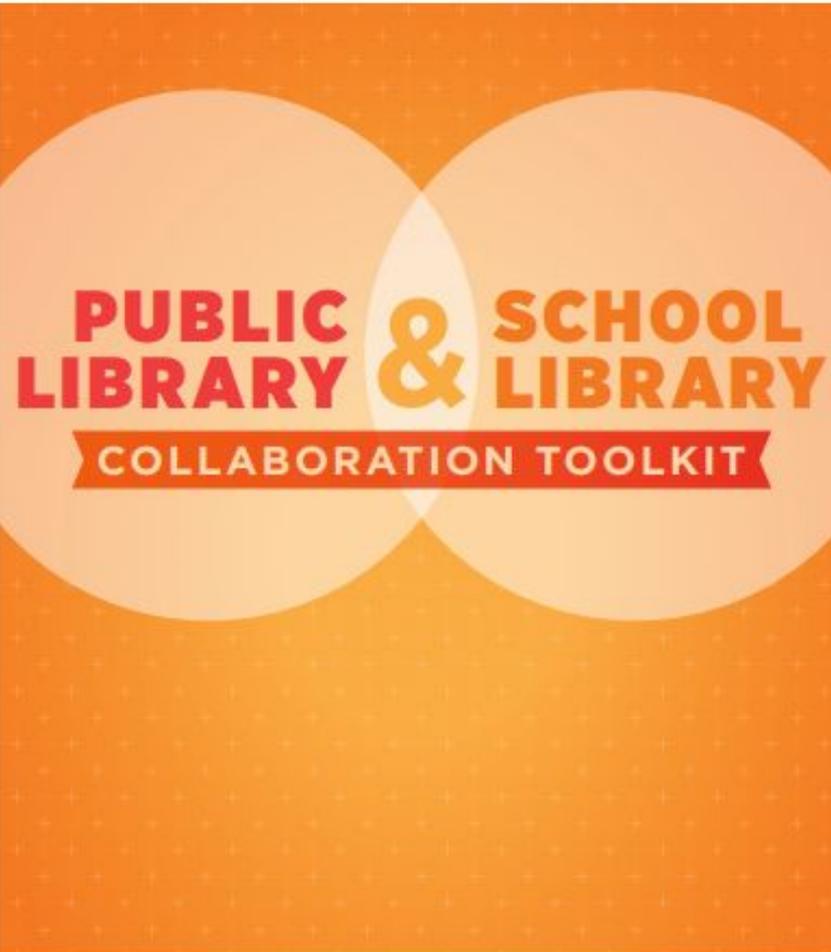
WHO

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PUBLIC LIBRARY & SCHOOL LIBRARY
COLLABORATION TOOLKIT

Created by the AASL/ALSC/YALSA Interdivisional Committee on School/Public Library Cooperation



YOU



Objectives

- Learn why it's worth your time to partner with your public library.
- Brainstorm easy ways to get started collaborating with your public library to achieve common goals.
- Get inspired with ways to take partnerships to the next level.
- Leave with practical steps and best practices for building successful partnerships.
- #1 Takeaway: Libraries WANT to work with you!

WHY

“Both public and school libraries are community centers at heart, with the same goal: to provide a safe, welcoming environment for all patrons and access to information in a variety of formats. When public and school librarians and library workers engage in collaboration, community members reap the benefits.”

-- Public Library & School Library Toolkit (available for free)

American Association of School Librarians (AASL), Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)



“If you’re not collaborating, why aren’t you collaborating? The end result improves services for kids and makes them better researchers and lifelong learners.”

— SUSAN BALLARD

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS PRESIDENT, 2012–2013

COLLABORATION WILL:



EXPAND & ENRICH

services and programs



BROADEN

talent pool and resources



REACH

new audiences



CREATE

new connections and strengthen existing relationships with libraries as well as other community organizations



INCREASE

visibility to community and potential partnership and funding resources



CONTRIBUTE

to overall community vitality



**GET
STARTED**

COMMUNICATE



REACH OUT

2

IDENTIFY

3

PRIORITIZE

4

PLAN

5

**5 ESSENTIAL
ELEMENTS OF
SUCCESSFUL
PARTNERSHIPS**



COMMUNITY

Effective communication



**Respect and
reciprocity**

2

**Positive,
can-do attitude**

3

**Saying thank you
and giving credit...
over and over
again!**



**Evaluating and
keeping in touch**

5



LEVEL UP

Build on existing relationships.

Plan and implement projects together.

Join existing coalitions and networks.

Meet with leaders individually and in small groups in informal settings.

Invite partners to your internal meetings from time to time.



Hold joint trainings and cross-train each other's staff.

Use written agreements as appropriate to clarify communication and create positive expectations.

Write collaborative grants and initiate new programs and services in partnership.

YOU

Ready, Set, Go!





Summer Reading Program

Storytimes

Homework help

**Access to computers, printers, scanners,
copiers, etc.**

Help with school projects

Encouraging reading for pleasure

Volunteer opportunities



Field trips

Author visits

School book fairs

Back-to-school orientations

Children's Book Week (May)

Every Child Ready to Read

Teen Read Week (October)

Teen Tech Week (October)

National Library Week (April)

School Library Month (April)

Library Card Sign-up Month (September)

Ready for more?



A photograph of two women sitting at a table, looking at an open book. The woman on the left is wearing glasses and a red and black striped shirt. The woman on the right is wearing a dark jacket and a patterned scarf. The background shows a window with blinds. The text is overlaid on the image in white boxes with black text.

Book collections & kits

Bookclubs

Displaying school projects

Professional development

Stocking summer reading titles

Maker and STEM programs

Services for families and adults



Community Reading Project
Little Free Libraries
Local Coalitions

YOU



Manage Obstacles



**Libraries WANT to
work with you!**

The way to get started is to quit
talking and begin doing.

- Walt Disney

ANY QUESTIONS?



You can find us at mwulff@firstregional.org and hlee@firstregional.org.

