

FWISD Adopt-A-School Program

Adopt-A-School is a program that matches a business or organization with a school to support the goals of the school through the creative use of resources and the implementation of strategic activities.

Background:

In 1982, the FWISD Adopt-A-School program began with seven businesses and organizations -- IBM, TU Electric, Texas American Bank, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Bell Helicopter, University Christian Church and Church Women United. Today, there are over 260 Adopt-A-School partners.

Adopt-A-School partnerships focus on human involvement and resources rather than financial commitments. Each partnership develops a plan for the year based on the available resources of the business and the needs and goals of the school. Examples of activities are pen pal programs, tutoring, mentoring, serving as judges for contests and fairs, offering opportunities in preparing students for post-secondary education and gainful employment and incentives for academic achievement, attendance or behavior. Partners are also encouraged to tap resources that include real-life hands-on experiences in science and math. The time commitment is flexible, ranging from implementation of annual activities to opportunities for involvement on a weekly or monthly basis.

Adopt-A-School Partnerships:

- support Goal 3 of the FWISD Strategic Plan, which states that family involvement and community partnerships will be an integral part of the education of all children;
- engage businesses and community organizations in strategic activities to improve student achievement;
- produce results – often measurable – that stem from the creative use of resources and planned activities; and
- serve as catalysts for the exchange of information between schools, businesses and the community.

To fulfill the requirements for participation as an adopter, the senior management of a business or organization agrees to provide a coordinator who will:

- ✓ meet with the principal and school coordinator annually to plan activities and programs that support the goals of the school;
- ✓ complete the planning sheet with the school coordinator to be returned to the Parent and Public Engagement office;
- ✓ recruit and recognize volunteers;
- ✓ maintain a record of in-kind and financial donations to the school, including an estimate of volunteer hours given;
- ✓ submit news to the Parent and Public Engagement office for the *PARTNERS* newsletter and other means of publicity; and
- ✓ meet with the principal and school coordinator in May to assess the effectiveness of partnership activities and to make plans for the back-to-school time period.

Overall Benefits to the Business/Community Partner:

Employees or members have the opportunity to positively impact students' pursuit of academic and personal lifelong success. Activities often help to keep students in school and to encourage the exploration of college or continuing education and career opportunities. In making a positive impact, businesses, organizations and individuals experience great pride and a sense of involvement. A quality partnership is mutually beneficial to both the business or organization and the school.

For more information, contact:

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