



Gate City Charter School for the Arts Community Partners Policy

Purpose

Gate City Charter School for the Arts (GCCSA) values the role of community partners in supporting our mission to integrate the arts into all aspects of education. Partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and individuals strengthen our ability to provide meaningful educational opportunities, foster student growth, and enhance our presence within the Merrimack community and beyond.

Definition of Community Partnership

A **community partner** is any organization, business, non-profit, or individual that collaborates with the school to provide resources, expertise, services, or opportunities that support our educational program, arts integration, or community engagement.

Examples include:

- Local arts organizations (e.g., theaters, dance studios, music schools)
- Non-profit organizations supporting student enrichment
- Local businesses contributing materials, expertise, or sponsorships
- Schools, colleges, universities, or training programs offering mentorship or collaboration

Guiding Principles

1. **Alignment with Mission** – Partnerships must support GCCSA's arts-integrated mission and values.
2. **Mutual Benefit** – Partnerships should be structured to provide value to both the school and the community partner.
3. **Transparency and Accountability** – All agreements, if applicable, will be documented and communicated clearly to stakeholders.

4. **Respect for Boundaries** – Community partners will not direct school policy, curriculum decisions, or student discipline in the capacity of

Procedures for Establishing Partnerships

1. **Identification** – Staff, families, or board members may propose potential community partners.
2. **Review** – The Director (or designee) will review proposed partnerships for alignment with the school's mission
3. **Approval** – Formal partnerships require administrative approval and, when necessary, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Partnership Agreement.
4. **Documentation** – Partnerships that require formal agreements will outline the scope, duration, responsibilities, and goals.
5. **Renewal** – Partnerships will be reviewed annually for effectiveness and continued alignment with school goals and development.
6. **Termination**–Partnerships may be modified or discontinued if they no longer meet the needs of the school or its students.

Expectations for Community Partners

- Adhere to all school policies, including background checks when working directly with students.
- Respect student confidentiality in compliance with FERPA and other applicable laws.
- Provide opportunities in a manner consistent with GCCSA's values of respect, responsibility, safety, and creativity.
- Collaborate with school staff in a professional and reliable manner.

Conflict of Interest

Board members, staff, and family members must disclose any personal or financial interest in a proposed community partnership. Such conflicts will be reviewed in accordance with the school's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Evaluation and Accountability

- Partnerships will be evaluated annually based on student benefit, alignment with mission, and partner satisfaction.
- Feedback will be gathered from staff, students, families, and partners.