

How to Use the Operating Principles

Operating Principles is a tool for partners that helps them to make effective decisions. It outlines the keys to success for business-education partnerships. Partners can use it to create, develop and maintain partnerships.

How Do These Operating Principles Fit with Organizations' Codes of Ethics, Practice and Conduct?

The principles listed in this document are designed to complement existing codes. They can be used by partners to address aspects of their partnership that may not be treated in their organizations' own codes.

Operating Principles is part of a tool kit of materials developed by

The Conference Board of Canada.

See also:

Ethical Guidelines for Business-Education Partnerships

and

Evaluating Business-Education Partnerships: Value Assessment Process

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Business-Education Partnerships Forum

The Forum is a multi-stakeholder group committed to promoting ethical and effective business-education partnerships. It developed Operating Principles for Business-Education Partnerships in consultation with the Corporate Council on Education and more than 200 representatives from businesses, education institutions, teachers' organizations, student groups and government departments across Canada.

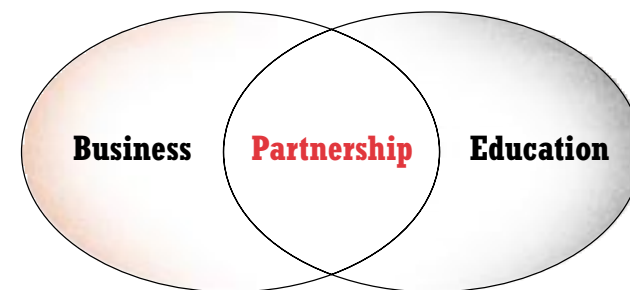
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OPERATING PRINCIPLES for BUSINESS-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Why Operating Principles?

The Operating Principles describe some of the keys to successful business-education partnerships.



The Business-Education Partnerships Forum encourages partners and prospective partners to use these Operating Principles as a framework for creating, developing and maintaining successful business-education partnerships.



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Operating Principles for Business—Education Partnerships

Business–education partnerships are mutually beneficial relationships between employers and educators that enhance learning for students and other learners. They may involve other education stakeholders as partners, including students, employees, parents, communities, labour, and government organizations. Most business–education partnerships are co-operative relationships in which partners share values and objectives, human, material or financial resources, and roles and responsibilities in order to achieve desired learning outcomes.

SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS–EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS:

Inception and Development

- ✦ Identify learners' needs first, then take action to enhance learning outcomes
- ✦ Develop through consultation with all partners to meet learners' needs
- ✦ Set clear objectives that support the partner organizations' goals
- ✦ Test actions against the ethics and core values of all the partners

Ownership

- ✦ Share ownership to build commitment and encourage participation
- ✦ Gain commitment of leaders in the partner organizations and build grassroots support

Operation

- ✦ Create a partnership team with a clear mandate and continuity of membership
- ✦ Recruit champions and advocates in the partner organizations
- ✦ Identify resource needs to ensure that resources are adequate to complete activities successfully
- ✦ Define clear roles and responsibilities for all the partners
- ✦ Express expected behaviours and outcomes to all participants
- ✦ Train participants to carry out their partnership roles and responsibilities
- ✦ Identify, learn from and apply successful practices as the basis for improvement

Evaluation

- ✦ Measure and evaluate performance to make informed decisions that ensure continuous improvement
- ✦ Share evaluation results regularly with all partners and stakeholders

Communication

- ✦ Define communications needs and have a communications component at each stage of partnership activity
- ✦ Build in personal recognition and feedback to participants
- ✦ Recognize and celebrate the partnership's successes



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