

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A PIE?

The partners in Education (PIE) program represents the many voluntary relationships that exist between our schools and businesses and other organizations. The program gives students a real-world perspective on the subjects they study in school, while giving the people involved with the business or organization an opportunity to get to know about public education in Gwinnett.

WHAT DOES PIE TRY TO ACCOMPLISH?

School and business resources are combined to give students the opportunity for a more complete education. Partnership activities supplement classroom learning through activities such as tours, mentoring, learning incentives and more.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A PARTNER?

Partners give time, talent and energy, and receive even more in return! Business partners become actively engaged in public education, gaining a far greater understanding of the educational process. By becoming involved, business partners also gain an excellent reputation in the school community as caring, dependable and generous organizations. An added bonus is the effect of becoming an active partner has on the organization. What better feeling is there than knowing, you made a difference in a child's life? Business partners have reported for years that the time and effort it takes to be an active partner is returned ten-fold in the boost to employee morale.

WHO CAN BECOME A PARTNER?

Small and large businesses, community organizations, civic groups and professional associations can make valuable contributions to public education in Gwinnett County. Any group that has the desire to improve education is a candidate.

ARE THERE SPECIFIC CRITERIA IN BECOMING A PARTNER?

The only criteria is a commitment to being involved in the educational process. Involvement can take many forms, but it is the level of involvement that defines whether or not a relationship is a formal partnership.

Formal Partnerships are characterized by parties having a plan for continuous involvement. The most successful partnerships have agreed upon goals and objectives – a written plan of action. Formal partnerships don't require a certain monetary contribution or a specific number of activities. Partnership contributions and activities should be set between the school and business. Informal partnerships are those where involvement is minimal and there are no wet plans between the parties. For example, a business that wants to distribute free coupons to students and staff once or twice a year would be considered an informal partner.