



Partners in Education Virtual Handbook

Presented by:



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The SelectCobb Partners in Education Team



Twana Roots
Workforce Initiatives Manager
troots@cobbchamber.org
770-859-2374



Katie Scott Troy
Economic Development Coordinator
ktroy@cobbchamber.org
770-859-2353

Partners in Education

WHAT IS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION?

A collective effort of the Cobb Chamber, Cobb County School District & Marietta City Schools that matches businesses and organizations with schools to provide extra funding, unique services and volunteer support.

OUR MISSION

To enrich the learning experience of Cobb’s students so that all develop a strong academic foundation, skills, and core values that will benefit them in their community life and in a career.

PIE BENEFITS

- Well-rounded students
- An awareness of opportunities
- Tangible community impact
- Business that are connected to and within the community
- A more equipped workforce
- Soft skills
- Network and resource lines are opened

OUTSTANDING PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



“Floyd Road Baptist Church’s contributions to Sanders Elementary have been invaluable. Their willingness to support and encourage our families and staff creates an atmosphere that enables us to be supported and connected. The backpacks for our students with supplies, pressure washing and painting our benches in front of the building, providing outreach to our families in need for a variety of services, donating toys for the holidays and provide food to our families in need on a weekly basis. Floyd Road Baptist Church is invaluable to Sanders Elementary.” - **Sanders Elementary School**

COMMUNITY IMPACT



“Aside from the delicious food, 3 Amigos is a valuable partner in their unwavering willingness to support any school or program in the district. They provide monetary donations, as well as a gathering place and sense of community at their restaurant.”

- **Marietta City Schools**

Our Purpose

Equipping our schools with financial, in-kind, education/development, and volunteer/mentoring resources while also creating connections between community members and local businesses.



Financial

- Academic Event Support (e.g. science fairs)
- Campus Improvements
- Classroom Mini-Grants
- Field Trip Support
- General Monetary Donations
- Student Club/Organization Support
- Student/Family Support Services
- Student Scholarships



In-Kind Donations

- Campus Improvements
- Classroom Supplies
- Gifts or Gift Cards for Teachers and/or Students
- Instructional Material or Equipment Donation
- Refreshments for Meetings and Events
- Technology Donation
- Donated Services (e.g. computer hardware repair/ "scrubbing", etc.)



Education/Development

- Classes for Students on Special Topics
- Career Day/Career Fair Participant or Support
- Career/Technical Program Advisory Committee Member
- Field Trips / Virtual Field Trips to Workplace
- Mock Job Interview Participant or Support
- Project-Based Learning Opportunities
- Work-Based Learning (employment or internship)
- Teacher Externship



Volunteer/Mentoring

- Campus/School Beautification
- Judging Competitive Events
- Mentoring Students
- Reading to Students
- Service on a School or Program Committee
- Tutoring Students

Partners in Education

Best Practices Handout



Prepare

Think outside the box. Think beyond public relations and monetary benefits. Decide what opportunities both entities could benefit most from, and ensure the partnership represents the interests of all.

Understand the difference in value of business and educational institutions and understand the true purpose of the partnership; enhancing the education of students.

Determine the boundaries and abilities of the partnership. Ensure each partnership have clear objectives and on-going evaluation.

Add partners and Chamber PIE staff to “safe sender list” to prevent losing emails to spam/junk folders.



Establish

Create a “Partnership Plan”. The partnership plan will outline the commitments both parties have to the other, detailing expectations.

Emphasize the mutual benefit and build rapport with teachers and administration. Be sure to get involved in the school and attend events, as well as invite school staff to company/organization activities.

Highlight partnership events to generate awareness and increase participation. Recognize the partnership in employee newsletter and display PIE certificate at organization’s location.

Maintain enthusiastic commitment amongst partnership needed for a long-term relationship.



Communicate

Invite teachers to your building and employ a system of exchanging information. Be sure to designate one person to be your partner liaison.

Set objectives and deliverables. Who is involved, what resources are needed, and how updates will be shared.

Execute a plan of action and facilitate checkpoint meetings (i.e., the second Tuesday of every month, 8 a.m. at the school). Checkpoint meetings will create opportunities for either party to check-in, share pertinent information and upcoming events.

Stay in touch. Meet several times a year at integral periods during the school year. Consistent communication contributes to successful partnerships.



Avoid

Avoid partnering for the wrong reasons. Abstain from placing too much emphasis on business advertisement and marketing products/services.

Do not over commit your resources or use the partners in education program as a publicity stunt. Partnerships are a two-way street.

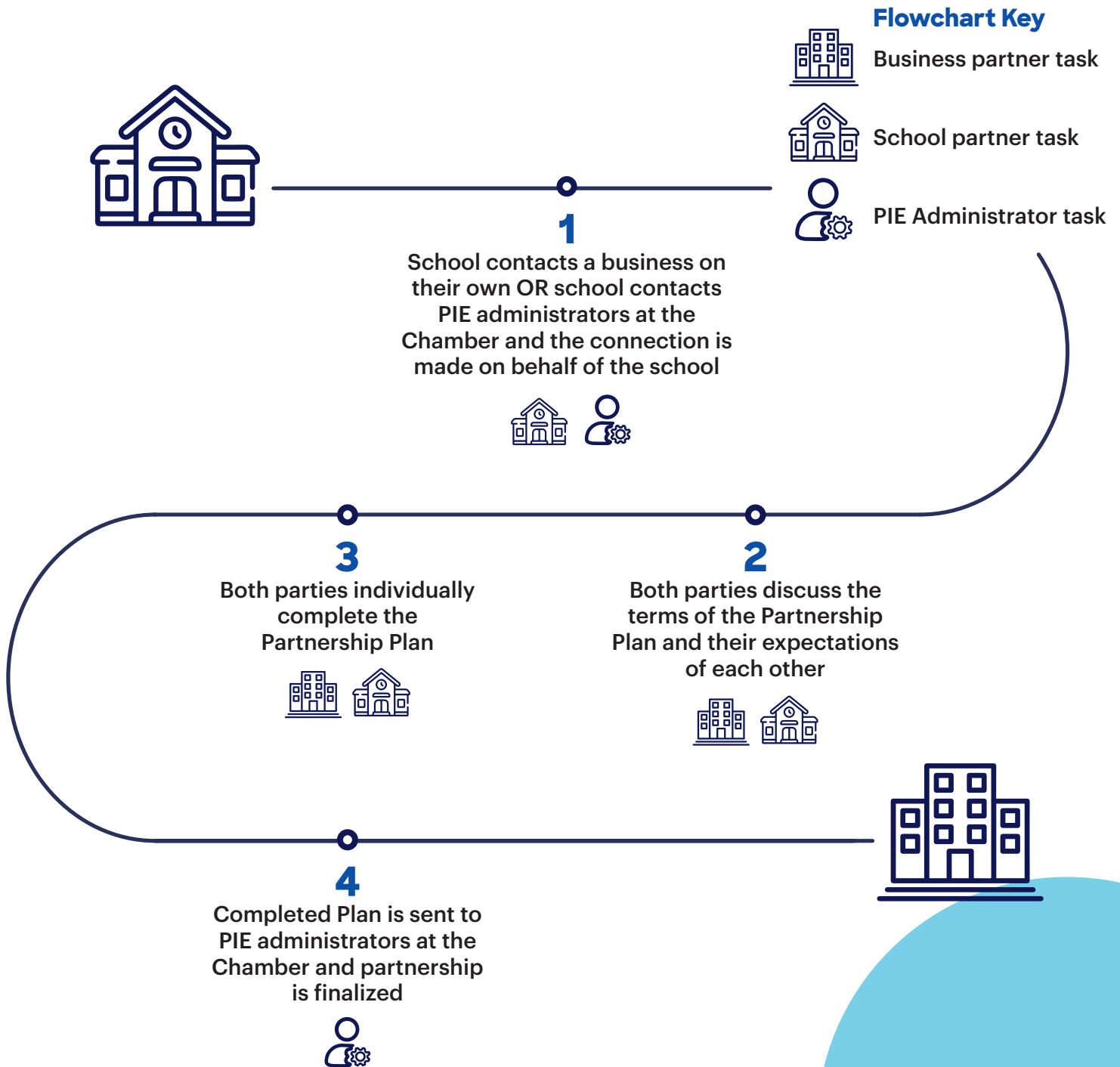
Remember to notify PIE staff about changes to contact information, avoid not maintaining consistent contact with your partner throughout the year.

Refrain from acting as an “unofficial” partner. Use the time, resources, and expertise offered by the Cobb Chamber. If problems arise, remember to notify the Cobb Chamber and return all CCED phone calls.

- Designate an involved person or group to oversee and be the point of contact.
- Set up meetings and check-ins on an as-needed basis.
- Clearly communicate your needs and expectations verbally and on the Partnership Agreement.
- Contact the Chamber with any additional questions or for assistance you need.

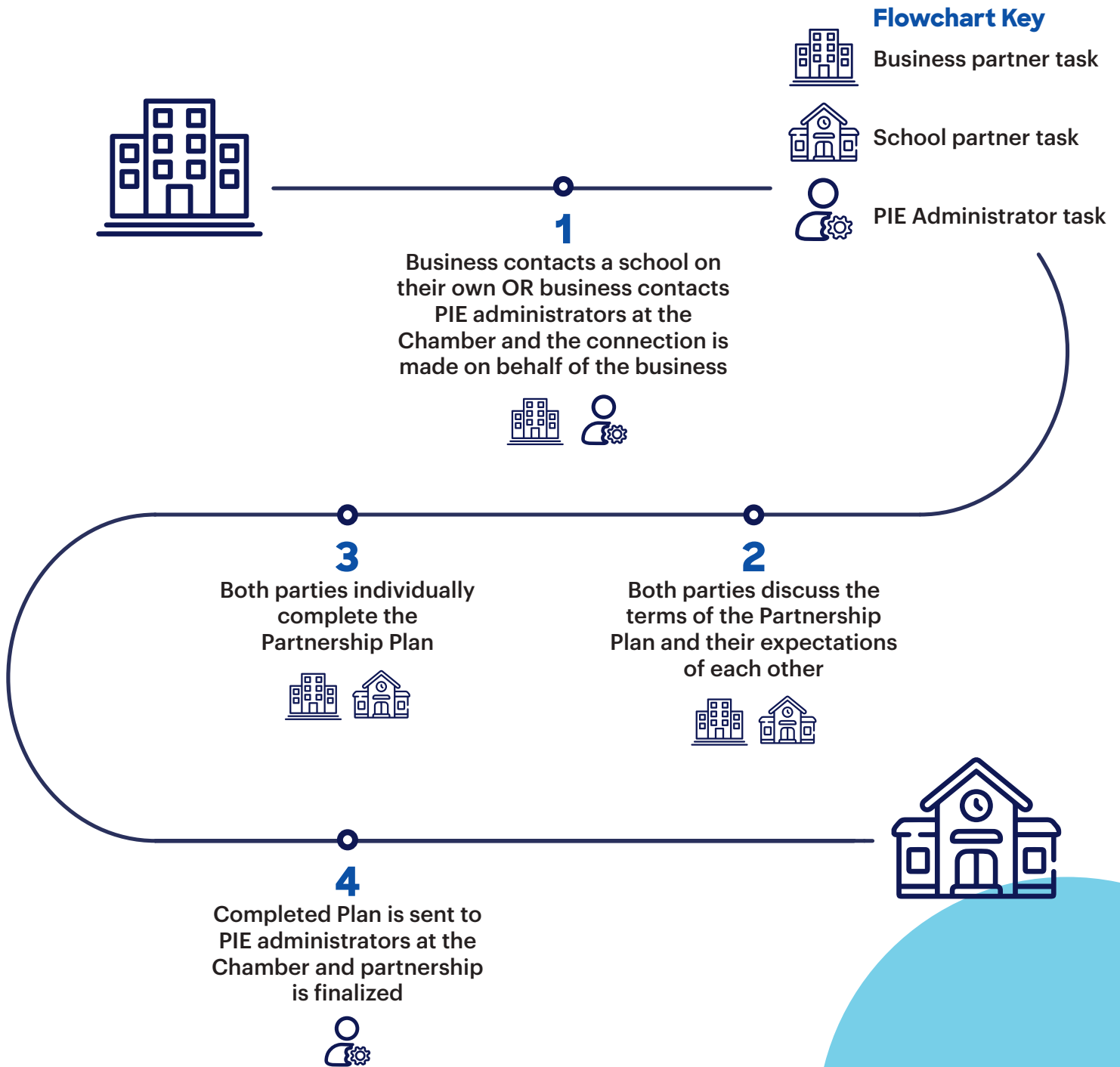
Partnership Plan Flowchart

If Initiated by School



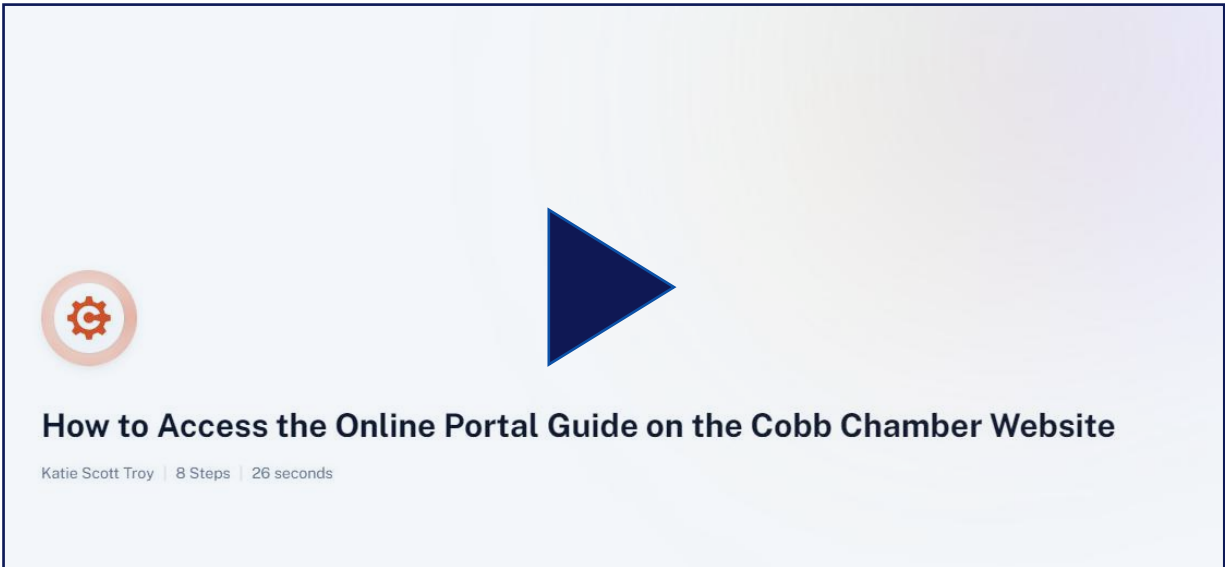
Partnership Plan Flowchart

If Initiated by Business



Partnership Plan How-To

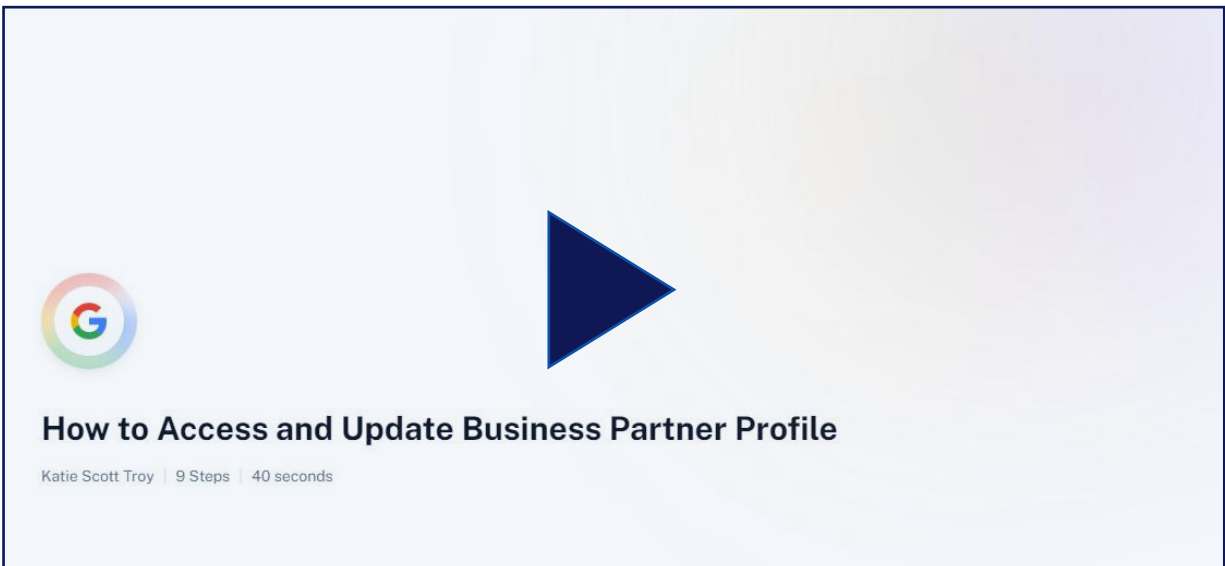
Video



scribehow.com/embed/How_to_Access_the_Online_Portal_Guide_on_the_Cobb_Chamber_Website_vjOEO-vyQEOmcVKuek9pbA

Business Partner Profile How-To

Video



scribehow.com/shared/How_to_Access_and_Update_Business_Partner_Profile_w6zbDEMMQ8eSNRkr4JDIYA

Join Us

Join a community of businesses helping to foster stimulating academic experiences for Cobb's youth

Partners at Large



WICKHAM FINANCIAL &
INSURANCE SERVICES

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a partner?

- Contact the Chamber.
- Complete a Business Profile and follow the Partnership Plan Flowchart.

Can the Chamber help match businesses with school partners if the business does not know who they would like to partner with?

- Yes! The Chamber will try and match a business with a school partner based on the school needs and businesses proposed contribution.

Do businesses have to make a financial contribution to become a PIE Partner?

- No. Businesses can contribute financial support, in-kind donations, volunteer hours, or program support as a partner. However, please keep in mind that schools typically select partners that align with their school needs.

What is the difference between Partner in Education and Partner at Large?

- A Partner in Education typically partners with and provides support to specific schools and has a partnership agreement with each school partner.
- A Partner at Large typically partners with an entire district and provides support to every school within that district. This type of partnership must be approved at a district level and usually requires much more support.

What happens if my school or partner do not meet the requested needs?

- Follow the accountability plan to proactively set expectations.
- Reach out to the Chamber.

How do I get more partners?

- Reach out to your local businesses, churches, and former PIE Partners in your community.
- The Chamber regularly promotes the Partners In Education Program as a whole and encourages local businesses to get involved. The Chamber cannot promote schools individually as the PIE Program does not promote partiality.

How do I find out who my partners are?

- Each School has a list of PIE Partners included in their School Profile.

How do I access my School Profile?

- Contact the Chamber to request a copy of your School Profile.

How do know my partnership is official?

- The school and the business will receive a Declaration of Partnership Certificate once both parties have completed and signed the Partnership Plan.