



# PROMISE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

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# PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

For *[DATE RANGE]*

## OVERVIEW

Promise Partnership Utah (further referred to as PPU) is an organization that provides “backbone” support to the Promise “Partnership” community, including Promise Community Schools, Promise Communities, and Promise Networks, which are focused on systems change strategies. “Promise Partners” (further referred to as Partners) form various partnerships across these areas of work. Partners work across organizational walls to align and work together to pursue bold, shared, community-level outcomes.

By signing this Partnership Agreement, *[PARTNER NAME]* (further referred to in this document as Promise Partner or Partner) becomes one of these organizations committed to working with PPU and the Partnership to do the work necessary to get better outcomes for kids and families in our community.

Promise Partner commits to the following work. This work may evolve in conversation with PPU team members. Committed work includes: *[DESCRIBE WORK HERE]*

This agreement outlines the standards of organizational mindsets and behavior for which all Partners hold themselves and each other accountable. This Partnership Agreement applies to *[DATE RANGE]*. Partnership Agreements with PPU and affiliated programs are reviewed and signed annually, as handled by PPU’s Funding and Operations Strategist.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Partnership's fundamental value is that together, we can do much more than we can in isolation. Successfully improving educational outcomes requires rigor, discipline, shared accountability, and commitment to equity. Schools cannot and should not be expected to meet all the needs of students and families alone. We cannot make meaningful progress without focusing efforts, frequently measuring performance, and adjusting our work.

Within the Promise Partnership, Partners share accountability for student educational outcomes and align in efforts for students and families, like improving attendance, stabilizing mental health, or better engaging families. Partners commit to ensuring those who are most impacted are engaged and centered in the work of the Partnership.

### **Shared Commitments to Results**

- PPU and Partners will work together in schools and communities to identify a geographic focus and a set of population-level outcomes and indicators for which it can share accountability.
- PPU and Partners will work together in Promise Community Schools and Promise Communities to identify performance measures, share that data with Partners solely per applicable privacy laws, and use that data for continuous improvement.
- All Partners will track these performance measures consistently and report on them during Promise Partnership meetings.

## All Parties agree to

1. Shared Accountability
  - a. Partners assume a dual accountability model in which each partner maintains accountability for their program's results and the entire population the partnership is working to improve.
2. Advance Equity
  - a. Partnerships commit to focusing the Partnership's work on advancing equity and ensuring that any programs or services provided as a part of this work are intentionally designed and targeted to address those most negatively impacted by systemic barriers.
3. Engage Those Most Impacted
  - a. Partners commit to identifying the people most impacted by the Partnership's work and engaging them in multiple phases, including codesigning programs or strategies whenever possible.
4. Program Data Sharing
  - a. Partner organizations secure Releases of Information and/or data consent forms (i.e., FERPA waivers) whenever possible to enable the open discussion of students and families in our partnership meetings and with each other.
5. Data Confidentiality
  - a. The data Partners share is intended for continuous improvement around our shared goals. Partners will not share other Partners' data, verbally or in writing, with media, funders, or others outside of the Partnership setting without permission of the data provider (e.g., the school that provided the data).
6. Adaption & Continuous Improvement
  - a. When Partnerships commit to solving problems that no single organization can solve alone, adding up the current collective activity reveals that it is not enough. Partners anticipate that change will be

required of them and their programs or organizations to increase reach and impact as the collective Partnership learns more about the challenge. Partners agree to continuously improve and reflect on our shared work and apply rigor and experimentation to increase scalable impact.

#### 7. Program Alignment & Systems Change

- a. Inequitable education outcomes cannot be solved by aligned programming alone. Beating the curve requires systems. Partners commit to identifying systemic barriers and elevating these with the group with the approach that systemic barriers can be addressed if the right partners, expertise, and strategies are employed.

#### 8. Commitment to Action, Not Ideation

- a. Forming longstanding, mature partnerships is an emergent process. Partners commit to emergence until we have clearly defined root causes, can successfully implement both programmatic and systemic interventions as partners, and recognize that action and change are the goals.

#### 9. Data Development Agenda

- a. There is likely no place where the Partnership has all the data wanted or needed, but this cannot stall the work. Partners commit to working on our outcome simultaneously with data sourcing.

#### 10. No Cost/Low-Cost Solutions

- a. The most impactful strategies often involve behavior change and alignment, which are low cost, not program expansion, which can be expensive. Partners will keep "no cost/low cost" solutions at the forefront of their minds when addressing defined outcomes.

### **PPU (the backbone organization) agrees to**

1. Convene school(s) and other Partners to align, motivate, and hold partners accountable for improved academic outcomes.
2. Assemble and analyze relevant data, provide support and expertise, and focus on student barriers to learning using improvement science and results-based accountability framework.
3. Work with districts, civic institutions, and other partners to raise funds to address students' barriers to learning.
4. Elevate the systemic barriers and opportunities that surface from schools to the relevant Promise Networks for additional help changing those structures.
5. Report back to school leadership, district staff, and others on the progress of the Partnership.
6. Publicize the Partnership's successes to raise the Partnership's profile (when appropriate).
7. If the school(s) desires, provide ongoing support, training, and recruitment assistance to designated "volunteer coordinators" at schools.

### **Promise Community Schools agree to**

1. Become proficient in the community school model.
2. Have principals meet with PPU, relevant staff, and partners to share and discuss school data and priorities, and assign relevant staff with decision-making authority for ongoing participation in scheduled Partnership meetings.
3. Have school leadership and relevant staff engage in developing interventions and desired outcomes, demonstrating a clear connection to school priorities.
4. Collaborate with other schools and partners to set priorities and promote shared learning and resources.
5. Host site visits of funders and other partners as relevant.
6. Share relevant student data to support interventions and assist in securing and tracking FERPA (Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act) waivers for

targeted groups of students to enable such sharing with PPU and Partners, including but not limited to social service providers.

7. Promote widespread understanding of the Community School partnership within the school.
8. If desired, assign a point person for coordination of volunteer opportunities.

### **Promise Partners from social service providers agree to**

1. (Depending on which Partnership the organization is engaged in) Become proficient in the community school model; become familiar with the Promise Neighborhoods model, which Promise Communities are modeled off; and/or become familiar with StriveTogether's systems change model.
2. Assign a staff member with decision-making authority to represent the provider at meetings and complete applicable work between meetings.
3. Focus efforts, whenever possible, on students and families identified by Promise Community Schools.
4. Work creatively and with urgency to address immediate challenges experienced by students and families while also anticipating longer-term needs.
5. Consistently communicate with community school partners and other relevant providers to ensure referrals lead to service.
6. Ensure that programming and services are listed in the 211 network resources; verify and update the information about Partner's organization housed within 211 on [211utah.org](http://211utah.org) and inform 211 promptly in writing if information needs to be updated.
7. As appropriate and desired by families and students, work with 211 service coordinators and other Partners and service providers so that students and families can ensure basic needs are fully met.
8. Share programmatic data, including client data, to support interventions and outcomes consistently while maintaining compliance with privacy regulations.

### **Promise Partners from business, philanthropy, and government agree to**

1. (Depending on which Promise Partnership the organization is engaged in)  
Become proficient in the community school model; become familiar with the Promise Neighborhoods model, which Promise Communities are modeled off; and/or become familiar with StriveTogether's systems change model.
2. Assign a staff member with decision-making authority to represent the organization at meetings and complete applicable work between meetings.
3. Bring different perspectives and different ways of understanding and approaching challenges.
4. Leverage relationships and influence to remove barriers to the Partnership.
5. Publicize the Partnership's successes to raise the Partnership's profile (when appropriate).
6. Rally volunteers and resources to fill gaps for Promise Schools and Promise Communities.
7. Elevate the systemic barriers and opportunities that surfaced from schools to the relevant Promise Networks for additional help changing those structures.



## **MARKETING AND BRANDING**

When appropriate, we encourage Partners to increase the visibility of relevant Partners (including PPU and other organizations, schools, or community groups within the shared Partnership region) to enhance public awareness and to build broader donor, caregiver, volunteer, and advocacy engagement. Partner shall not remove or replace any PPU branding (including logos and/or watermarks) from any resources produced by PPU.

For logos, messaging, or any other marketing materials or brand guidelines, Partner should contact PPU's marketing team at [marketing@promisepartnership.org](mailto:marketing@promisepartnership.org). Additionally, all collateral created by a Partner using the PPU logo or messaging must be reviewed by the marketing team before use.

## **FUNDRAISING**

PPU recognizes that to achieve agreed-upon objectives, Partners must have adequate and sustainable resources. PPU and Partners acknowledge that development is a shared responsibility, and when appropriate, agree to:

- Work together to identify funding opportunities, determine which Partners are best positioned to apply for them, and develop proposals for strategies that the Partnership has prioritized.
- Present funding opportunities directly or indirectly related to the Partnership work to other Partners.
- Provide immediate and constructive input to other Partners when collaborating on fundraising efforts and complete all deliverables associated with such projects.
- Participate in periodic site visits and/or conversations or presentations with current and prospective Partners (including potential investors).

## **SIGNATURES**

I have read this agreement entirely and agree to embody the specifics and spirit of the Promise Partnership terms as outlined.

Amy Ahrens Terpstra  
Chief Impact Officer  
Promise Partnership Utah

Date

Recipient  
Job Title  
Organization Name

Date