Exemplary Practice 9.0: Collaboration

• Partnerships with community agencies, businesses and groups based on trust, open communication, clearly defined goals, and shared responsibility at exemplary nontraditional or alternative schools.

• Collaborative efforts enhance the student’s performance in the school, home, and community.

• Collaborative partnerships promote opportunities for life skills, soft skills, service learning and career exploration for all students.

• Community representatives have a role in the planning and resource development of the nontraditional or alternative school.

Indicators of Quality Programming:

9.1 Partnerships with community resources are secured and established to help the nontraditional or alternative school solve problems and achieve goals as outlined in the program’s vision and mission.

9.2 Partnerships are designed to support and enrich the school by including the community as a resource for funding education, advocacy and volunteerism.

9.3 A comprehensive outreach program utilizing the parent advisory council is established by the nontraditional or alternative school.

9.4 Interagency and community partnerships exist to support the physical and mental health of students enrolled in the program.

9.5 A student assistance program which allows for referrals to community agencies when appropriate is provided at exemplary nontraditional or alternative schools.

9.6 Community representatives are drawn upon as resources during the planning phase of the individualized student plan that involves student planning for the following: community participation, employment, independent living and post-secondary education. All effort is made to ensure that representatives reflect the unique needs of the community demographics and serve to close any existing opportunity gaps.

9.7 Community partners are utilized when integrating life skills, soft skills, college and career readiness and service learning into the nontraditional or alternative school.

9.8 Community representatives serve on the Advisory Board and assist in planning, resource development, and decision-making for the nontraditional or alternative school.