



BEST PRACTICES FOR CITIES' SUPPORT OF INNOVATIVE, HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOLS

1. Collaborate and work with school districts to address issues of common concern to our parents and kids. Examples of valuable collaboration include:
 - a. Partnerships to expand recreational opportunities, such as through joint use agreements on parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, camps, facilities, and afterschool/summer programs;
 - b. Supporting, facilitating, and advocating corporate, foundation, and college partnerships with local schools/districts to supplement educational and social programs. Partnerships can take the form of financial support, a commitment of volunteers, and (for colleges) service-learning programs.
 - E.g., Sunnyvale's collaboration with Advanced Micro Devices at the Columbia Neighborhood Center
 - c. Supporting school safety, by sharing funding of crossing guard programs and public safety neighborhood resource officers at each school.
 - d. Coordinating library programs, services, and hours to address the needs expressed by local school teachers, principals, and parents.
 - e. Engaging in school related ballot measures, and encouraging individual councilmembers to take an active role with those measures.
 - f. Facilitating and encouraging collaboration among multiple organizations—incorporating educational, criminal justice, police, health, faith-based, and other groups--to identify and confront the challenges that youth face in the influences of gang, drugs, pregnancy, bullying, depression, and other risks.
 - E.g., Sunnyvale's Challenge Team; the San Jose Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force.
 - g. Making active communication with school districts and principals an institutional habit, by:
 - 1) Ensuring district and school officials have ample notice of pending municipal decision-making that could impact schools and children, particularly regarding housing and land use.



- 2) Designating a liaison or council subcommittee who will attend at least one district board meeting, and act as the point of contact for district communications with the Council.
2. In consultation with the local school district(s), commit to a set of clearly defined, specific measures for closing the achievement gap within the city, and for establishing a “no excuses” environment for reaching those goals.
 - E.g., the SJ/SV 2020 Plan
3. Assist in the replication of proven, high-performing school models—whether public “small schools,” charter public schools, or other schools that do not charge tuition—by enabling efforts to get school facilities up and running by:
 - a. Streamlining land use approvals for new school sites through fast-tracked zoning approvals, within the objectives of each city’s general plan;
 - b. Exploring assistance to schools in financing new or renovated facilities, such as by approving conduit financing for bonds issued by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority, or by guaranteeing publicly issued bonds during school startups;
 - c. Encouraging access to city-owned facilities and land by schools through joint-use agreements.