

Maximizing Your Partnership Agreement Liaison (PAL)

The Partnership District Model was developed as a district-level approach to supporting Partnership District needs. The role of the Partnership Agreement Liaison (PAL) is to remove barriers in communication and identifying appropriate resources. Using your PAL as a navigator, a communications broker, a neutral facilitator, and your MDE point-of-contact, will lead to reduced barriers and increased communication. PALs are intentionally and purposefully assigned to work at the district level to ensure consistency in messaging. Review the roles and responsibilities of your PAL to maximize your interactions!

Roles and Responsibilities of Your PAL



Navigator

Liaison as a Navigator

The Partnership District Model is designed to eliminate barriers. The PAL serves as a Navigator for the Partnership District. This responsibility includes:

- Connecting the Partnership District to the appropriate MDE individual, unit, office, and/or program
- Working behind the scenes to find resolution to internal barriers at MDE
- Following the process once the Partnership District and the MDE individual, unit, office, and/or program have connected



Communications Broker

Liaison as a Communications Broker

The Partnership District Model is designed to minimize and eliminate miscommunications. The PAL serves as a Communications Broker for the Partnership District. This responsibility includes:

- Facilitating Collaborative Conversations
- Assisting Partnership Districts and MDE to engage in meaningful conversations
- Assuring that all relevant parties are included in correspondence and conversations



Neutral Facilitator

Liaison as Neutral Facilitator

The Partnership District Model is designed to reduce distractions. The PAL serves as a Neutral Facilitator for the Partnership District. This responsibility includes:

- Being an active listener
- Understanding all perspectives without judgement and helping to maintain focus on goals
- When invited, serve as a neutral facilitator for meetings

Liaison as your Point-of-Contact or P-O-C

The Partnership District Model is designed to minimize ambiguities. The PAL serves as the official Point-of-Contact to the assigned Partnership District Superintendent and/or other district designees. This responsibility includes:

- Interacting with the Superintendent or Central Office Designee
- Being included in all district and identified schools' correspondence originating from MDE
- Being included in all correspondence originating from the partnership district and identified schools (as the district finds appropriate)
- Being designated as the contact by the school/district with all questions to assist with clarification, reduction of barriers, and seeking supports from MDE
- Being the contact for any MDE office with questions to assist with clarification, reduction of barriers, and seeking supports for the school/district



Point-of-Contact

Other Responsibilities of Your PAL

- Attend District, Community, and/or Board Meetings when requested and invited
- Work collaboratively with the district to identify district goals
- Be aware of the progress of district priorities
- Know and be aware of the most pressing issues and needs for accelerating turnaround efforts
- Keep the district focused on the Partnership Agreement goals and support them in their efforts
- Provide technical assistance in the service of Partnership Agreement goals, especially for Blueprint installing districts
- Assist in identifying and bringing in external partners in support of the Partnership Agreement and district
- Facilitate and coordinate services and supports as needed among MDE offices, community partners, outside providers, and MI Excel work
- Assist in reducing barriers to the implementation of the Partnership Agreement
- Assist Partnership Districts with the development of 21h grant application

Available Resources

Your PAL should only be connecting you with programs and services that are developed by and/or endorsed by the Michigan Department of Education. MDE currently does not recommend curriculum, programs, and/or vendors that have not been identified through an official RFP (Request for Proposal) process.

Services

- MI Excel



- Blueprint for Reconfiguration



- SEC/Surveys of Enacted Curriculum



- MiMTSS



Paid Resources

- Curriculum Crafter



- GoOpen Michigan



And many, many more! Ask your PAL.