Are you looking for a skilled workforce? Are employability skills important to you? If so, how can you help educators ensure that students are ready for work and possess important employability skills? This resource briefly outlines different ways that employers can support employability skill development in the classroom. While most of these roles are related to more general partnership activities, they provide opportunities to highlight the importance of and reinforce skills included in the Employability Skills Framework.

The following partnership activities, adapted from various resources listed below, describe a wide range of employer involvement:

**Partnership Activities**

- **Identify employability skill needs** and inform curriculum or program development to integrate employability skills by participating in a local program advisory committee, standards writing or review committee, or credential selection team.

- **Provide opportunities for students** to develop employability skills through work-based learning opportunities, including externships, laboratory access, and apprenticeships. Provide feedback to participating students on their employability skill strengths and areas for improvement.

- **Offer professional development opportunities** for teachers to understand your employability skill needs. This includes inviting local teachers to your worksite to see current processes/technology and hosting seminars or workshops on your businesses practices.

- **Donate funds or resources** to create training programs that incorporate employability skills.

- **Engage with student activities** that develop employability skills, such as Career Technical Student Organizations, by serving as an advisor, providing judges, equipment, or case studies for skill competitions and sharing information on internship or job shadowing opportunities.

- **Emphasize the importance of employability skills** in career guidance and advising by participating in career fairs and serving as a mentor and classroom speaker.

- **Advocate for policy change** to support college and career readiness initiatives.

For an in-depth guide to employer and education partnerships, see *Industry and Education: A Guide for Effective Collaboration* from NCCER.
Resource Guides and Toolkits


Case Studies/Profiles


**Partnership Is a Two-Way Street: What It Takes for Business to Help Drive School Reform**, Institute for a Competitive Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 2011. *Case study on three areas (Austin, Nashville, and Massachusetts) where local business leaders have been critical in transforming public education.*

**Developing Successful Partnerships with Business and the Community**, Mary S. Spangler, 2002. *Volume from New Directions for Community College, with chapters focused on community college and business partnerships.*

**Joining Hands: CTE Programs Partner with Employers for Success**, Nancy Mann Jackson, 2014. *Article in Techniques describes the corporate partnership supporting the Montgomery Public Schools’ Health Science Career Academy.*

**Business-Education Partnerships in Career and Technical Education: Driving American Competitiveness**, The Association for Career and Technical Education. *Profile of business-education partnerships in support of CTE.*

National Reports

**Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity**, Obama Administration, 2014. *White House report on America’s job training programs and necessary strategies and components, such as industry partners.*


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Articles, Blog Posts, and Websites

**Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education**, Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE). *Website describing the MBAE’s mission and past and current actions to improve the public education system.*

**The NCCER Blog**, The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). *Blog with articles from construction industry representatives and CTE staff discussing a variety of topics, from the importance of Academy-Style training to the return on interest of partnering with education.*


**Why Business and Industry Support CTE**, The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium and The Association for Career and Technical Education. *Brief memo outlining the importance of CTE and how businesses and industries can support CTE.*

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