



# PARTNER BUILD GROW

An Action Guide for Sustaining Child Development and Prevention Approaches

The Partner Build Grow Action Guide provides school administrators, program directors, civic leaders, and other stakeholders with tools to improve the sustainability of community and school-connected approaches to promote students' cognitive, social, emotional, and physical health and educational success. The Guide illuminates the policy advocacy steps to help mobilize key allies, develop a call to action based on knowledge of existing resources, access viable financing and regulatory approaches, and explore communications strategies. It provides guidance on how to measure progress and assess outcomes for each recommended step.

The Guide is built upon a four-pronged strategy that stakeholders can adapt to the unique circumstances of their own community.

## MAPPING ASSETS



**Build on assets or resources currently in place in your locality or state** – school and community-connected initiatives – that demonstrate capacity and of which current leaders are proud. Mapping these resources together can become a relationship-building enterprise among citizens, policymakers, and professionals who come together to identify what programs and services exist and what additional supports are necessary.

## BUILDING AN ACTION TEAM



**Prioritize networking and building/strengthening relationships** with elected officials, appointed policy leaders and decision-makers at local and state levels, as well as with well-connected citizens and professionals, including school leaders who are involved with various coalitions. These team members share your goals, have political clout, and can help navigate the world of financing for public services.

## CONNECTING TO THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT



**Keep abreast of the larger state and federal policy picture and of state and local funding processes to maximize available opportunities.** Relationships with officials and colleagues are essential to ensure you are at as many “tables” as possible. Showing up and participating at the “tables” enables you to attach your initiative to policy goals being advanced by individuals within state or local education, health, behavioral health, Medicaid, youth development, and other sectors through both direct budget proposals and executive actions that impact the budget.

## COMMUNICATIONS



**Emphasize framing positive messages that connect diverse stakeholders' aspirations,** to both the broader public interest and to narrower professional interests with the universal student prevention support, youth development, or educational initiatives you are advancing.

**These steps, or action guide prongs, are not linear.** They are dynamic, and to some degree, they happen simultaneously, overlap, or are influenced by one another so that you may have to circle back to a previous step and adjust the activities to match the current reality. By engaging in a continuous improvement process guided by evaluation, you will be able to determine whether program or partnership objectives are being met.

### Unique Features of the site:

- Users will have the option of creating a profile in the Action Guide database that allows bookmarking of desired content and pages, and the ability to leave comments and share success stories.
- Practical tools and success stories are available for download for each of the steps to help users organize information, track progress, and communicate with key stakeholders.

*To receive Action Guide updates, please email us at: [chhcs@gwu.edu](mailto:chhcs@gwu.edu)*