

What I know

ABOUT EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Within and beyond your professional life, you have most likely been a partner or had a partner in many different contexts. After reading this issue of *Transform Professional Learning*, think about your own partnerships and answer these questions to remember past experiences, examine assumptions, and consider new possibilities. Reframe the questions from a team’s perspective if that is appropriate.



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| 1 | How do I define partner? What are the three or four defining characteristics I consider essential? |
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| 2 | What partnerships have helped me the most professionally? Why? |
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| 3 | What partnerships gave me unexpected frustrations? What could have happened differently to achieve greater success? |
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| 4 | What challenges am I facing now where a partner could be a real benefit? What would it take for me to pursue such a partnership? |
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| 5 | What are my greatest strengths as a partner? |
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| 6 | How do I need to grow to become a better partner? |
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Adapted from **Hirsh, S. (2011, February)**. Turning to partners doesn’t have to create a feeding frenzy. *JSD* 32(1), 68. Available at <http://learningforward.org/docs/jsd-february-2011/director321.pdf>.