



Adopt -A-School Partnership

Our Program

The Adopt-A-School Partnership Program is a Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS) District initiative that brings businesses, civic and faith-based organizations, individuals or any other community-based group together with a school to form a partnership.

During the partnership, adopters and school personnel commit themselves to specific goals, activities, resources (human/financial), all of which are intended to make a sustainable impact on student success. Also, Adopt-A-School Partnerships are high quality, innovative relationships which enrich the learning experience and help close the gaps of students, while enhancing the future of the city and our communities. MSCS is fortunate to have strong support from volunteers and community partners. MSCS sponsors one of the most established Adopt-A-School programs in the country. Through the support of its Adopt-A-School (AAS) partners, MSCS students have been connected to the community in many ways including: exciting guest speakers for career day; generous donations of equipment for the science lab; dedicated tutors who spend time one-on-one focusing on reading and math skills; and dedicated mentors who reach out to struggling teens who need an extra adult who really cares.

Our History

The Adopt-A-School program was started by legacy Memphis City Schools and the Volunteer Center of Memphis in 1979. It was designed to create a family consisting of a business, civic group and/ or religious organization and a school. The purpose of the program was to foster a better understanding in the community of our public school district and to establish a person-to-person relationship between the adopter and adoptee that would create a spirit of involvement and concern for our schools. The ultimate goal of the program was to encourage greater community-wide interest in our schools, to ensure the economic and public educational future of our city and to make our school district a model for which every Memphian could be proud. The program began with 15 partnerships. Today, over 40 years later, the program is called Adopt-A-School Partnership (AAS Partnership). Partnership was added to the name in 2000-2001 because the focus of the program moved from a paternalistic relationship to a partnership in the holistic education of our children. Our schools now have more than 500 business/community partners. The goal of the program remains basically the same and that is to promote partnerships between schools and the community that create a sense of ownership of the schools and a belief that a quality public school district is an investment in the continued growth and prosperity of the city.

Adoption Levels of Participation

Campus Adopter: An organization/individual that partners with one school by providing resources and/or services at no cost during the school year.

Community Adopter: An organization/individual that partners with two or more schools by providing resources and/or services at no cost during the school year.

Sponsor: An organization/individual that provides a one-time service, resource, or financial contribution to a school and/or the Shelby County School District during the school year

