

STEM Partnership Agreement  
The School Board of Sarasota County and the  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation

Partnership Agreement (Agreement) between the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice (Foundation) and the School Board of Sarasota County (Board) to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning outcomes in grades 6-12.

The Foundation and the Board agree that:

- There is a demonstrated need to improve mathematics, science, and technology teaching and student achievement in our area schools especially at the middle and high school levels.
- The Board is committed to improving STEM education.
- Florida's more rigorous Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in STEM subjects will require new teaching methods and the integration of technology and assessments.
- There is a need for students and parents to better understand and prepare for changing workforce demands and opportunities related to STEM disciplines.
- The Sarasota economic development plan targets STEM related industries and the parties want Sarasota students to be prepared for these jobs.
- This STEM initiative supports national efforts to improve math and science achievement and is based upon national research and recommendations.
- This partnership will help the Board fast track implementation of STEM goals, develop sustainable models and leverage grant opportunities.

Therefore, the Foundation and Board enter into this Agreement beginning July 1, 2010 with the following provisions:

- 1) The two primary goals are to:
  - a. Accelerate teacher readiness and preparation to meet the State's Next Generation Mathematics and Science standards.
  - b. Enhance STEM opportunities for students that increase achievement and promote readiness for STEM related postsecondary programs and careers.
- 2) The project period is July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2015.
- 3) The project will target two high school (North Port High School and Venice High School) and four middle schools (Woodland, Venice, Laurel Nokomis, and Heron Creek middle schools). These are feeder schools which offer continuity between middle and high schools.
- 4) The project will focus on grades 6-10<sup>th</sup> for enhancing student STEM opportunities to increase achievement and promote readiness for STEM related postsecondary programs and careers.

- 5) The project will target on-grade level students for enhancement activities using testing and other criteria determined by the Board.
- 6) The Board and Foundation will jointly agree to goals for increased student enrollment in upper level and advanced mathematics, engineering, and science courses, FCAT and end of course assessments, and college readiness.
- 7) The Board and Foundation will jointly agree on the desired outcomes of professional development for participating teachers.
- 8) The Foundation will provide the resources to support these goals as outlined in Exhibit A, Work Plan and First Year Budget Allocation.

The Board or Foundation may discontinue this agreement for any project with 90 days notice prior to July 1 of each project year.

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Lori White, Superintendent  
School Board of Sarasota County

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date

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Shirley Brown, Board Chair  
School Board of Sarasota County

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date

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Mark Pritchett, Vice President  
Community Investment  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice

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date

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Teri A. Hansen, President/CEO  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice

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date