

TAKING FLIGHT

THE PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Mineral Wells Elementary School



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The Process of Becoming a PDS

Step 1: Meeting with Faculty

- *Involve entire faculty*
- *Discussed needs of college*
- *Discussed needs of school*
- *Description of program & goals*
- *Faculty decision to pursue*



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Step 2: Steering Committee

- *Grade level teachers, specialists, assistant principal*
- *Worked as liaisons for full faculty*
- *Met with Project directors monthly*



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Step 3: Develop a Plan

- *Decide the nature of the partnership*
- *Faculty in the school and their roles*
- *Classes to be housed at the school*
- *Services to be offered to the school, teachers, and students*



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Step 4: Implement the Plan

- *Paraprofessional practicum*
- *Cooperative Discipline course*
- *Student teaching practicum*
- *Professional development opportunities for teachers*

Step 5: Evaluation

- *Impact on students, teacher candidates, and teachers*



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Opportunities and Benefits for the College

- *Faculty presence in school*
- *Large number of participating teachers*
- *Teacher candidates involved in staff training*
- *Very welcoming atmosphere*



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Opportunities and Benefits for the School

- *Individual tutoring in math and reading*
- *Lower student-teacher ratio*
- *Professional development for staff*
- *Funding for equipment/books/resources*
- *Faculty presence*



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Challenges of the PDS Partnership

- *More people in the school*
- *Open and frequent communication*
- *Faculty presence*
- *Providing space*
- *“Playing well together”*



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Recommendations for Others Preparing to Take Flight

- *Spend time building relationships*
- *Trust and relationships take time*
- *Develop a plan*
- *Use open and honest communication*
- *Have majority of faculty engaged in the PDS project*
- *Focus on goals and purpose of the PDS relationship*

