

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Colleges as Partners of Public Schools

To the Editor:

We thank you for the article "[Reaching Out for Students, and Money](#)" (*The Chronicle*, May 28). It is important for readers to get a sense of what can be accomplished with public-school students when high standards, good content, and exciting pedagogy are employed by a college or university.

Still, the cover headline "Academe Strives to Improve the Public Schools," for that and a related article, reinforces a paradigm that has not led to the systemic changes required for success in the nation's public schools. It suggests a common practice, in which institutions of higher education do something to or for public schools.

We believe that interactive partnerships with public schools, which build on the strengths and skills of the staff in schools and of the faculty in colleges and universities, will provide environments in which most, if not all, students will be prepared to be successful in higher education. We encourage work with schools that focuses on the unique, but mutually supportive, missions of schools and colleges. ...

Interventions must go even further than those proposed in the article. They require attention to four factors that play a part in a school's effectiveness: instruction, including high teaching and learning standards; structure, including class and school size, ... administrative and organizational arrangements, and allocation of resources; professional development; and involvement of parents and other stakeholders. Attention to these at the scale of the whole school is necessary. ...

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<http://chronicle.com>
Section: The Chronicle Review
Volume 50, Issue 42, Page A47

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