



## Strategic Partnership Policy

Adopted by the Dauphin County Library System  
Board of Trustees  
March 15, 2011

The Dauphin County Library System (The Library) welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with private and public agencies and institutions when doing so extends the library mission and benefits the community. The Library will participate in partnerships that meet the following criteria:

1. The project extends the library mission in one of the following ways:
  - a. Removes barriers to library service for existing user groups
  - b. Reaches underserved populations identified in The Library's strategic plan (including departmental plans) and Board of Trustees-endorsed service priorities.
  - c. Reaches new populations identified as priorities in The Library's strategic plan or introduces users to new concepts of the role of the public library in serving the community's needs.
  - d. The project is designed to resolve a community problem or meet a community need, ex. build literacy, further workforce development, identified as a priority in The Library's and/or the county's strategic plan.
2. The project has a written, clearly defined plan that addresses the above criteria and includes:
  - a. Roles and responsibilities of all parties
  - b. Assessment of resources required to achieve success
  - c. A timeline for implementation, marketing, documentation and evaluation
  - d. Key contacts for all parties
  - e. Expected outcomes
  - f. A termination plan
3. There is a reasonable balance of resource provision and responsibility between partners.

The Library's Senior Management Team will evaluate strategic partnership requests at its regular meetings.

The mission and policies of potential partners must be compatible with the policies, vision, mission and goals of The Library. If deemed appropriate by the Senior Management Team, a written agreement or contract will be entered into by The Library and the partnering organization(s). The Library may cancel a partnership agreement at any time if the partnership proves detrimental to The Library's resources or if the partner uses The Library's name without prior consent, or if the mission of the partnering organization changes substantially or in a manner that becomes inconsistent with The Library's mission and image.

Partnerships undertaken by The Library must respect the Library's commitment to intellectual freedom. Partners cannot influence the selection of materials, programs or services, require explicit endorsement of products and services or require access to confidential patron information.