

# Community Organizations Worksheets

Summary Indicator Worksheet	
Summary of Indicator Topics	Think about your civic index score in relation to the topic described. Write a few notes about how this topic seems relevant or not relevant to your school community.
<p><b>Topic 1: Involving the public in education reform</b>            This topic relates to the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Local organizations create opportunities to gather citizen input on education issues and to inform community members about where candidates for elected office stand on these issues.</i></li> <li>- <i>Local organizations define and advocate for public school accountability.</i></li> <li>- <i>The public is actively involved in community organizations that partner with the schools.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>To raise a Civic Index score in this area, parents need to actively</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide information to the public about schools and important education issues</li> <li>- Communicate the public's concerns to school officials and policymakers</li> <li>- Encourage individuals and groups with diverse viewpoints to talk to each other</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Topic 2: Identifying and advocating for important education issues</b>            This topic relates to the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Local organizations provide help for those most in need and pay special attention to low-performing schools</i></li> <li>- <i>Local organizations define and advocate for public school accountability.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>To raise a Civic Index score in this area, parents need to actively become involved in schools by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Narrowing the focus of reform to issues that the community can address effectively</li> <li>- Identifying areas of highest need</li> <li>- Understanding the political nature as well as the research base regarding the issues</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Topic 3: Building and sustaining resource networks</b>            This topic relates to the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Local organizations share resources with schools, including expertise, funding, volunteers, and coordination of health and social services</i></li> <li>- <i>The public is actively involved in community organizations that partner with the schools.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>To raise a Civic Index score in this area, parents need to actively become advocates for education by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Including leadership development as part of the organizing process</li> <li>- Developing strategic plans that include short- and long-term measurable benchmarks</li> <li>- Working towards a cooperative culture between schools and community</li> </ul>	

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**Common Results Worksheet**

Well-designed community organizing to support schools can result in networks that broaden the scope of resources to support student needs and lead to results that support student achievement. Take a moment to think about the structures that support involvement in your school community. For each description below, use the scale provided to note the value you give to each possible result.

**5** as the highest value . . . . . **1** as the lowest value

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<p><b>Connecting groups</b> Bridges that connect all constituency groups—parents, school staff, service organizations, community groups, and others—in supporting education</p>									
<i>What value do you place on this result?</i>									
					5	4	3	2	1
<p><b>Raising awareness</b> greater awareness of the educational needs of the community and what is being done to address those needs</p>									
<i>What value do you place on this result?</i>									
					5	4	3	2	1
<p><b>Shared Decision-making</b> greater distribution of leadership roles and shared decision-making</p>									
<i>What value do you place on this result?</i>									
					5	4	3	2	1
<p><b>Resources</b> additional resources to support schools</p>									
<i>What value do you place on this result?</i>									
					5	4	3	2	1

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## Key Issues Worksheet

### Community Organizations

Take a moment to think about the ways community organizations are invited to be involved and the ways they choose to be involved in the schools in your community.

**In your school community, what advocacy and accountability roles are assumed by different groups?**

**In your school community, what kinds of community organizing are used to support schools and stimulate educational reform?**

**In your school community, describe how data are used by various stakeholder groups to make decisions?**