

GYO Partnerships Conversation Starters

Partnerships are beneficial to candidates within Grow Your Own (GYO) programs and the dedicated educators managing the programs. Pooling resources between neighboring LEAs and institutions of higher education increases support, opportunities, activities, and events for all involved. Below are sample conversation starters that can be utilized in forming GYO partnerships.

Partnerships with:

- **Elementary Schools:** *“We have GYO candidates interested in the early elementary and elementary levels. Are there teachers in your school who would be interested in extra sets of hands in their classrooms to assist with teaching activities?”*
- **High Schools:** *“We have a paraprofessional in our GYO program who is pursuing their teaching certification in [English, math, science, social studies]. Do you have a teacher in that department who would be interested in hosting the candidate so they may engage in job shadowing activities?”*
- **Support Services Offices:** *“We have a GYO candidate interested in [special education, speech pathology, school psychology, social work]. Do you happen to have someone in your office who would be interested in hosting our candidate as an observer or possibly engage them in activities related to their position?”*
- **Guidance Offices:** *“Our Future Teachers of America (FTA) club is interested in connecting with teacher education programs across the state due to there not being programs nearby for us to visit in person. We were hoping we could coordinate with your office in arranging a virtual event, or connecting with a college or university that would be interested in sending program representatives to us for a presentation or discussion panel.”*
- **Curriculum & Instruction Offices:** *“Our GYO candidates a great discussion recently after watching and analyzing teaching videos. Would you be interested in working with us on a professional development activity that is geared towards new educators that covers the basics of curriculum and instruction and perhaps demonstrates some instructional approaches?”*
- **Building & District Leadership Offices:** *“We’ve been talking about educator dispositions in our Take a Look at Teaching (TALAT) club meetings. Would you be interested in attending one of our club meetings to talk about what you look for when hiring for educator positions, as well as suggest experiences our club members could engage in to develop those dispositions?”*
- **Teachers’ Unions:** *“We’re wrapping up the first year of our early recruitment pipeline extracurricular club for high school students interested in becoming teachers. As a natural partner with teachers, would you be interested in co-hosting our end-of-year celebration and award ceremony with us for our current club members and your future union members?”*

Partnerships with Neighboring LEAs:

- *“We’re starting up a GYO program and have been inspired by the GYO program(s) you’ve created. Could we set up a time to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to learn more about the initiatives you’ve implemented?”*
- *“We have a diverse GYO candidate who could flourish by working with a mentor with a similar background, so they can more fully visualize themselves as the amazing educator they’ll become. Do you have a diverse educator who would be interested in hosting our candidate and guiding them through job shadowing experiences?”*
- *“We’re starting up a GYO program and were wondering if you would be interested in creating one as well. If so, it would be great to connect to share ideas, resources, and learn about the process together.”*

BOCES Partnerships

- *“We’re starting up a GYO program and think your [education program] would be an excellent component for our candidates. Could we set up a time to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to discuss how we may implement the [education program] into our GYO pathway?”*
- *“We would like to develop a GYO program for our district paraprofessionals to pursue their classroom teacher certifications. Could we set up a time to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] with your certification officer to learn about TA to teacher certification options and perhaps schedule a presentation the officer could deliver to our potential candidates?”*
- *“Our district has a joint partnership with [school district] and we are working together in expanding our individual GYO programs. We have some ideas for education curricula that would be great for BOCES to offer our candidates. Could we set up a time to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to share our ideas and discuss next steps to implement the curricula we have in mind?”*

Higher Education Partnerships

- *“We recently completed a needs assessment regarding the current and projected educator vacancies within our schools and would like to set up a time with you to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to discuss our needs in relation to the programs you offer and local candidates who are interested in pursuing their certifications.”*
- *“We are starting up a GYO program for paraprofessionals in our schools to advance their certifications. We would like to set up a time with you to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to discuss residency possibilities for them through your educator preparation programs.”*
- *“Some of our Future Teachers of America (FTA) club members are considering educator program offerings across New York state and we would like to coordinate a [virtual, in-person] meet and greet with some of your program representatives, such as current students, alumni, program faculty, etc.”*
- *“Our GYO program is starting to plan a joint education conference with [neighboring district, BOCES, community organization] for our GYO candidates and your involvement would be an excellent addition to the event. We would like to set up a time with you to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to gather your insights on conference topics, structure, and to discuss logistics.”*