School District/Community Context Worksheet

1. Consider your school district(s) and local community - how does your museum engage with students, teachers, families and other stakeholders in the local education system? Do you work with multiple relevant school systems (urban/suburban/rural/parochial/private/charter) in the community? As you consider the discussion topics below, reflect on opportunities and/or challenges that face your museum as a direct result of the unique characteristics of your local school community.

2. Work with you partner(s) to discuss the questions below. **For each, reflect on what your responses might mean for your teacher professional development work.**

3. After 10 minutes, share your thoughts with your small group. Be ready to share some reflections with the larger group at the end of this activity.

Question	Answer	What might this mean for your future teacher PD work?
What type of school system(s) - urban/suburban/rural/public/parochial/private/charter are making use of your institution? Are you serving the main systems in your community?		
Are schools a source of revenue? For field trips, teacher PD? Other programs? Are you receiving philanthropic support for your work with schools? Could you?		
Describe the demographics of your current school participants, including students and teachers. How does this align with or differ from the demographic profile of the students and teachers in your community's school systems?		

Question	Answer	What might this mean for your future teacher PD work?
Describe your relationship with school leaders (school boards, superintendents, administrators, etc.). What are their STEM priorities? How can you find out?		
What do you know about the PD needs of your local teacher audience? Are there external factors (licensure, lane placement, subject matter endorsement) driving their PD choices? Is their motivation to seek out STEM PD?		
Are there political barriers to overcome in order to have a successful working relationship with your local school system and/or teacher organizations? What are they, and what steps are you currently taking to overcome them?		
Does your museum have a relationship with the local schools colleges & universities with schools of education? Do researchers/scientists from area universities use your museum for focus groups, surveys or related activities?		
What community organizations have an interest in supporting STEM in your local schools and does your museum have a relationship with those groups?		