There are nine key elements necessary for schools to create and sustain effective community partnerships to improve student mental health and overall wellness. These steps were developed by the Coalition for Community Schools, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the Institute for Educational Leadership.

1. **Leadership**
   - Leadership teams should be comprised of school and community stakeholders.
2. **Needs Assessment**
   - Needs assessments should be used to identify resource gaps and establish goals.
3. **Point Person**
   - Designate a person at the school to lead the coordination of the partnership.
4. **Accountability**
   - Set clear expectations and have shared accountability for the partners.
5. **Communication**
   - Create a communication plan to share progress and challenges.
6. **Evaluation**
   - Conduct regular evaluation of the effectiveness of the partnership.
7. **Sustainability**
   - Create a detailed plan for long-term sustainability from the beginning.
8. **Training**
   - Engage staff in ongoing, high-quality professional development.
9. **Resources**
   - Leverage the resources already available in the school and community settings.