

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS—A new way of tackling old problems

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement leads to **improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities.**

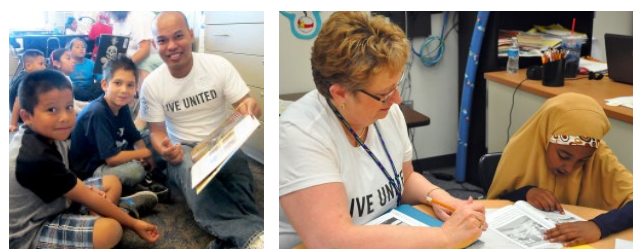
Community schools leverage local partnerships and resources to provide comprehensive supports for kids and their families at schools. Services are tailored to meet the needs of the local community and are aligned to support academic outcomes.

Successful Community School partnerships have:

- Clear vision and goals
- Shared accountability for ALL outcomes
- Aligned programs focused on student academic success
- Constant communication between students, parents, teachers, principals, and non-school partners
- Targeted interventions based on students' individual needs
- Data-driven decision-making
- Full-time community school director
- Adults willing to work together in new ways to promote student success

Community Schools that implement these key elements have the following results:

- Improved reading and math scores
- Improved attendance
- Higher graduation rates
- Improved behavior
- Greater parent involvement
- Safer neighborhoods
- Better use of resources



“A community school is not just another program being imposed on a school. It embodies a way of thinking and acting that recognizes the historic central role of schools in our communities — and the power of working together for a common good. Educating our children, yes, but also strengthening our families and communities so that, in turn, they can help make our schools even stronger and our children even more successful.”¹

— Ira Harkavy and Martin J. Blank, Education Week

¹ Harkavy, Ira and Blank, Martin J. “A Vision of Learning That Goes Beyond Testing” Education Week, April 17, 2002

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Community Schools put children at the center, surrounded by families and communities. Because students' educational success, health, and well-being are the focus of every community school, three interconnected support systems are the foundation.

CORE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Strong school leadership and academic practice designed to help all students meet high academic standards

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Before, after, and summer school programs designed to enrich the learning environment for children and their families



COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

Full range of health, mental health and social services designed to promote children's well-being and remove barriers to learning

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#CommunitySchools
#CollectiveImpact

For more information,
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