

Community Schools

Connecting School and Community to Support Student Success

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Factors Beyond School Contribute To Student Achievement Gap

- ✓ **weight at birth**
- ✓ **lead poisoning**
- ✓ **hunger and nutrition**
- ✓ **reading to young children**
- ✓ **TV watching**
- ✓ **parent availability and support**
- ✓ **student mobility**
- ✓ **parent participation**

Source: [Parsing the Achievement Gap: Baselines for Tracking Progress](http://www.ets.org/research/pic/parsing.pdf) by Paul Barton, Educational Testing Service.
<http://www.ets.org/research/pic/parsing.pdf>

What is a Community School?

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

Core Beliefs

- ◆ **Communities and schools are fundamentally and positively interconnected**
- ◆ **Schools can make a difference in the lives of *all* children**
- ◆ **Children do better when their families do better**
- ◆ **The development of the whole child is a critical factor for student success.**

Conditions.....Results

- ◆ Access to early childhood opportunities is available ...***so that children are ready to enter school.***
- ◆ There is a core instructional program with qualified teachers, a challenging curriculum, and high standards and expectations... ***so that young people succeed academically.***
- ◆ Learning bridges the gap between life and academics – in school, after school and out of school – ***so that students are engaged and motivated and involved in their community.***

Conditions.....Results

- ◆ The basic physical, social, emotional, and economic needs of young people and their families are met...***so that students live, learn and thrive in stable and supportive environments.***
- ◆ There is mutual respect and effective collaboration between families and school staff...***so that families are actively involved in their children's education.***
- ◆ The school and the community work together to find solutions...***so that communities are desirable places to live.***

What Happens at Community Schools

- ◆ Academics; Real-world learning After school enrichment
- ◆ Family support
- ◆ Parent/Community Engagement & Leadership Development
- ◆ Adult education and workforce classes
- ◆ Health, mental health & prevention
- ◆ Community problem solving

The Community School Advantage

Community schools:

- ◆ Garner additional resources and reduce the demands on school staff
- ◆ Provide learning opportunities that develop both academic and non-academic competencies
- ◆ Build social capital — the networks and relationships that support learning and create opportunity for young people while strengthening their communities

Broad Findings

- ◆ **Student** gains in academic achievement and non-academic development widely evident
- ◆ **Parent/family** participation seen as instrumental to children's success
- ◆ **Schools** have stronger staff and parent relationships, improved school climate and greater community support
- ◆ **Community** is stronger – improved safety and connections among people.

Source: Making the Different Research and Practice in Community Schools, Coalition for Community Schools, May, 2003.

Core Elements

- ◆ Community and School Leadership
- ◆ Principal leadership and support
- ◆ Teacher engagement
- ◆ Site-Based Leadership teams
- ◆ Community School Coordinator employed by community-based organization, public agency or school system
- ◆ Results-based planning
- ◆ Extended Use of school building

Community Schools Initiatives

- ◆ Chicago – 150 schools
- ◆ Portland/Multnomah County – 54 schools
- ◆ Lincoln, Nebraska – 23 schools
- ◆ Baltimore – 26 schools
- ◆ Cincinnati – 12 schools
- ◆ Tukwila, WA – all 5 schools
- ◆ Evansville – All schools