



Why Parents and Communities Support Community Schools

A community school brings together a set of partnerships that helps students overcome the barriers that cause them to lose focus and hope. Their emphasis on caring for and uplifting all of a child's various needs (academics, health, nutritional, psychological, etc.) is what sets these schools apart. These successful outcomes are achieved through the collaboration of several partners and volunteers, from pediatricians and dentists to mentors. By providing these comprehensive services directly on the school campus, community schools strengthen students, support parents and build up neighborhoods.

Community schools recognize that students cannot focus inside the classroom if their basic needs are not being met outside the classroom. Students who are hungry, sick, anxious, or troubled may be too overwhelmed to learn. At the more than 5,000 community schools across the nation, their needs are acknowledged and addressed.

Students Thrive When We Address the Achievement and Opportunity Gap

- Community schools help communities bridge the achievement and opportunity gaps. This collaborative approach enlists parents, local leaders and community partners to help to remove barriers, deliver bold solutions, and create opportunity for students, families and neighborhoods.
- They adapt to their community's unique needs, many providing community support services such as health care, mental-health counseling, and other support, before, during, and after school and on the weekends, all year long.
- When students receive the emotional, social and physical care they need, positive things happen: they're ready for school, attend consistently, have stronger social skills, better grades and higher graduation rates.

Community Schools Build Strong Schools and Neighborhoods

- Community schools are more than wrap-around services; they fill a gap that traditional schools cannot. Trusted partners enlist the help of doctors, dentists, mental health and social service supports that give struggling families hope, dignity and an enhanced standard of living.
- This proven model expands access to basic services, opportunities and delivers greater education and neighborhood investments that benefit the entire community. School coursework and mentorships may reflect input from local employers who in turn reinvest in the local workforce.
- Parents and students transcend academic and economic barriers when their community school becomes the neighborhood's trusted center for help, learning and development. They offer a range of help from food banks, childcare, academic coaching, and computer sharing to mentorships.

Community Schools Foster Better Learning and Opportunity

- Community schools help ensure all students, regardless of their ZIP code, have the support, tools, and time to learn.
- Educators, parents and communities believe a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work. That's why community schools champion smaller class sizes, high-quality teaching, and a well-rounded curriculum over high-stakes testing.
- Community schools tear down learning barriers so students attend class, have better work habits, stronger social skills, and graduate college and career-ready.
- Community schools offer emotional and physical support services that inspire students' natural curiosity, imagination and love of learning. Parents, educators and local partners together develop a learning community with a well-rounded, culturally relevant curriculum that includes arts, PE, music, AP, honors classes as well as after-school programs.

Single schools, entire school districts, cities and counties have embraced the community school concept. Community schools are successful because they deliver real solutions to students in struggling schools. By enlisting community partners, this proven, collaborative model unites and transforms entire communities in the effort to build the schools our students deserve.