

Community Schools Grant Initiative - Grantee Convening

New York State Museum, Albany, NY

May 14-15, 2015

Agenda

Thursday, May 14

Registration 10:30 – 11:00AM	Clark Theater Lobby	
Welcome and Opening Remarks 11:00 – 11:30AM	Clark Theater	Deborah Benson - Executive Director, NYS Council on Children and Families Sharon Holder - Director of Student Support Services, NYS Education Department
Plenary 11:30AM - 1:00PM	Clark Theater	Community Schools: A Strategy, Not a Program Jane Quinn - Director, National Center for Community Schools Janice Chu-Zhu - Senior Director of National Capacity Building, National Center for Community Schools As a strategy for organizing school and community resources around student success, the work of community schools is grounded in a strong base of knowledge from both research and practice. This plenary session will outline core concepts about the community schools strategy, including basic definitions, underlying principles that drive the work, essential elements, stages of development, and the theoretical and empirical research that undergirds practice in community schools.
Lunch (on your own) 1:00PM - 2:00PM	Empire Plaza or Concourse	
New York State Agency Panel 2:00PM - 3:00PM	Clark Theater	Representatives from New York State agencies will discuss State support for Community Schools, and assistance that can be provided to grantees. Moderator Deborah Benson - Executive Director, NYC Council on Children and Families Panel Donna Bradbury - Associate Commissioner, Division of Integrated Community Services for Children and Families , Office of Mental Health Sharyn Brandt-Ruzza – Manager, School Based Health Clinic Unit, Department of Health Claire Strohmeier – Director, Continuous Quality Improvement/Data, Office of Children and Family Services Christopher Myers – Workforce Programs Specialist, Department of Labor Renee Rider - Assistant Commissioner, Office of Student Support Services, State Education Department

Developing Performance Benchmarks 3:15PM - 4:45PM	Clark Theater	<p>Vanessa Threatte - Executive Director, New York Cradle to Career Strategic Alliance, State University of New York Carri Manchester - Associate in Educational Planning and Evaluation, NYS Education Department</p> <p>This session will assist grantees in developing relevant, appropriate and measurable benchmarks for evaluating the effectiveness of their community school strategies. The session will address strategies for setting goals and objectives, as well as the specific benchmark requirements of the Community Schools Grant Initiative program.</p>
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Friday, May 15

Registration 8:30 – 9:00AM	Clark Theater Lobby	
Welcome and Opening Remarks 9:00AM – 9:15AM	Clark Theater	<p>Deborah Benson - Executive Director, NYS Council on Children and Families Elizabeth Berlin - Acting Commissioner, New York State Education Department</p>
Plenary 9:15AM - 10:00AM	Clark Theater	<p>Program and Fiscal Requirements for CSGI Grantees</p> <p>Carri Manchester - Associate in Educational Planning and Evaluation, NYS Education Department</p> <p>This session will provide a basic understanding of State program and fiscal requirements for the Community Schools Grant Initiative (CSGI), and ensure grantees know how to access various reports and resources.</p>
Session 1 Workshops 10:15AM - 11:45AM	Clark Theater	<p>A. Health and Mental Health Partnerships</p> <p>Doug Bailey, Educational Consultant, NYS Office of Mental Health Maria Bove, LCSW-R, Director of School-Based Behavioral Health Services, Parsons Child and Family Center Garra Lloyd- Lester, Youth Suicide Prevention Specialist, Suicide Prevention Center of New York State (SPCNY) Mary McHugh, LCSW-R, Director of Strategic Clinical Solutions, Division of Integrated Community Services for Children and Families, NYS Office of Mental Health Jennifer Parmalee, Director of School Based Initiatives, Onondaga County Department of Children and Family Services</p> <p>This will be an interactive discussion. The panel will provide information on the emergence and implementation of successful partnerships between schools and mental health, including identifying key issues and lessons learned throughout the stages of the many partnerships they have been involved with. Significant time will be allotted for conference participants to ask questions or raise issues for the panel to respond to. Learning from the experiences of other schools and communities is intended to assist Community School grantees in developing and implementing effective strategies and practices as their partnership evolves.</p>

	Huxley Theater	<p>B. Engaging Families in Your Community School: What Works?</p> <p>Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Executive Director, New York State Afterschool Network Alli Lidie, Deputy Director, New York State Afterschool Network</p> <p>Parental involvement and family engagement are core to the community schools strategy, but it can be difficult to get families actively engaged due to many factors. Family engagement also goes far beyond the spaghetti dinner and even the core people involved in your PTA. Learn what works for engaging families on a deeper level and how you can take these strategies back to your community school.</p>
	Meeting Rooms A/B	<p>C. Forging Effective Partnerships in Community Schools</p> <p>Janice Chu-Zhu, Senior Director of National Capacity Building, National Center for Community Schools</p> <p>Explore effective strategies and potential challenges involved with creating collaborations that support learning and strengthen partnerships among all stakeholders. Use a variety of tools to assess the state of partnerships and how to deepen the level of partnerships. Incorporate the concept of addressing the developmental needs of children and youth and relate this concept to the programs provided by schools and partners.</p>
	Meeting Room D	<p>D. Tackling Chronic Absence</p> <p>Sarah Jonas, Senior Director of Regional Initiatives, National Center for Community Schools</p> <p>This session will define chronic absence in relation to average daily attendance and help participants understand the impact of chronic absence on young people's academic achievement and educational outcomes. The session will include a review of best practices for combating chronic absence, including strategies that engage families as partners in improving student attendance.</p>
Grantee Networking Session 12:00PM - 12:45PM	Clark Theater	Discussion Topic: Family Engagement
	Huxley Theater	Discussion Topic: Data and Evaluation
	Meeting Rooms A/B	Discussion Topic: Sustainability
	Meeting Room D	Discussion Topic: Health and Mental Health
Lunch (on your own) 12:45PM - 1:30PM	Empire Plaza or Concourse	
Session 2 Workshops 1:30PM - 3:00PM	Clark Theater	A. Sustaining Community Schools

		<p>Jane Quinn, Director, National Center for Community Schools</p> <p>Community schools are uniquely positioned to access and leverage funds and resources through strategic partnerships. Based on the Finance Project's sustainability planning framework, learn the best ways to sustain your initiative and leverage resources by blending and braiding federal, state, local, and private funding to support students and families.</p>
	Huxley Theater	<p>B. Evaluating your Community School</p> <p>Mary DeMasi, Director of Policy, Planning and Research, NYS Council on Children & Families</p> <p>Evaluation is a tool that helps place benchmarks within a broader context. This session provides a quick overview of evaluation; highlight its benefits; and walks participants through the basic steps so they can learn how to utilize evaluation findings to support and sustain their current efforts.</p>
	Meeting Rooms A/B	<p>C. Building A Positive Climate and Culture from the Inside Out</p> <p>Joseph D. Otter, LMSW, SBL – Associate, New York State Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Technical Assistance Center</p> <p>Establishing and maintaining a positive climate and culture in schools is a crucial aspect of maintaining high expectations, staff and student morale and providing a welcoming environment for family and community. This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging stakeholders in a climate and culture development process • Identifying the embodiment of climate and culture within behavior and actions • Using a research and data supported approach to climate and culture development
	Meeting Room D	<p>D. Children's Health and Community Schools</p> <p>Susan Slade, Director, Bureau of Child Health, NYS Department of Health Brett Harris, Research Scientist, NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Mary Flynn, Public Health Nutritionist, NYS Department of Health Kara Connelly, Assistant Director, Bureau of Dental Health, NYS Department of Health</p> <p>The Children's Health and Community Schools work shop is designed to give participants an overview of the status of children's health in NYS, including key outcomes and contributing factors. The work shop will provide participants with information about several key programs and initiatives that can promote health of students: the Child and Adult Care Food Program; the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative; School Based Health Centers; and, Dental Services. Upon conclusion of this work shop, it is hoped that each participant will have one new idea to try within their community.</p>
Wrap-up and Next Steps 3:15PM - 3:30PM	Clark Theater	

New York State Agency Tables
Friday, May 15, 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Representatives from the following agencies will be available in the Clark Theater Lobby for one-on-one meetings with grantees:

- State Education Department
- Department of Health
- Office of Mental Health
- Office of Children and Family Services
- Council on Children and Families
- Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
- Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
- Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives