

**Community Schools:
A Strategy,
Not a Program**

National Center
for
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Children's Aid Society

Jane Quinn

A Strategy for What?



A strategy for organizing the resources of the school and community around student success...

Pat Harvey, Former Superintendent
St. Paul Public Schools

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**"Could someone help me with these?
I'm late for math class."**

What is a Community School?

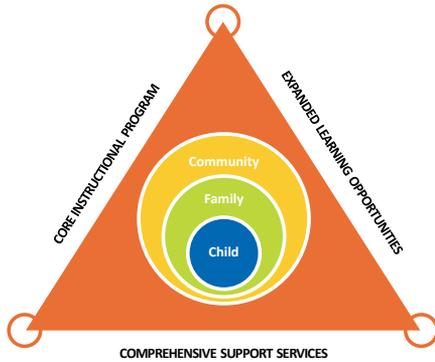


A community school is both a **place** and a **set of partnerships** between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities leads to **improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities.**

Coalition for Community Schools

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CAS Developmental Triangle



Several well-known models:



- ◆ Beacons
- ◆ Bridges to Success
- ◆ Children's Aid Society Community Schools
- ◆ Communities in Schools
- ◆ Elev8
- ◆ Healthy Start
- ◆ Polk Brothers Full-Service Schools
- ◆ Schools of the 21st Century (Yale)
- ◆ WEPIC (University of Pennsylvania)

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Underlying Research Base



- ◆ **Making the Most of Non-School Time**
 - Reginald Clark
 - Milbrey McLaughlin
 - Deborah Vandell
- ◆ **Whole Child Approach/ Application of Developmental Knowledge**
 - Jacquelynne Eccles
 - James Comer
- ◆ **Parents' Active Role**
 - Epstein (six types)
 - Henderson and Mapp
- ◆ **Coordinated Services**
- ◆ **Health-Learning Links**
 - Charles Basch
- ◆ **Consistent Adult Guidance & Support**
 - Werner/Benard (resilience theory)
 - Fritz Ianni

Newest Research



New research from Chicago (Bryk *et al.*) found five essential ingredients:

- ◆ Principal: driver of change; inclusive leadership approach
- ◆ Real family and community engagement
- ◆ Ability to build professional capacity
- ◆ Student-centered school climate
- ◆ Coherent curriculum

Key Ingredients



- ◆ Education First/Student Success as the Driver
- ◆ Full-Time Coordinator
- ◆ Site-Based Needs Assessment
- ◆ Responsive Community Partnerships
- ◆ Integration of CS Staff into Governance and Decision-Making Bodies (e.g., School Leadership Team, Principal's Cabinet)
- ◆ Ongoing Joint Planning and Data Analysis

Key Program Components



- ◆ After-School and Summer Enrichment
- ◆ Parent Involvement
- ◆ Adult Education
- ◆ Medical, Dental, Mental Health and Social Services
- ◆ Early Childhood
- ◆ Community and Economic Development

Results of CAS Community Schools



- ◆ Improved academic performance
- ◆ Higher attendance rates
- ◆ Positive school climate
- ◆ Improved school safety
- ◆ Greater parent involvement
- ◆ Improved student-teacher relationships
- ◆ Teachers able to focus on education

CCS Research Report 2013



- ◆ Recent report from Coalition for Community Schools summarizes latest research
- ◆ Key results include improved academic performance, improved attendance, higher graduation rates, improved behavior, positive youth development, greater parental involvement



- ### Underlying Principles/Capacities
- 1. Comprehensiveness:** Responding as fully as possible to the documented needs of students and families
 - 2. Coordination:** Structured and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders
 - 3. Coherence:** Supports/services are aligned (integrated) with the core instructional program
 - 4. Commitment:** Partners view CS as a long-term strategy, not a project, and do everything they can to make the partnership work
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- ### Lessons about Leverage
- ◆ Non-education dollars from multiple sources can be leveraged to add value to the work of schools, in schools
 - ◆ The community schools strategy adds both human and financial resources to schools
 - ◆ U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan calls his investment in community schools “the most highly leveraged dollars I spent in Chicago” as superintendent there
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Our Sustainability Story...



- ♦ Public dollars underwrite 2/3 of the additional services and supports
- ♦ Major public sources are Medicaid and Child Health Plus; city, state and federal after-school dollars (also support summer learning); Early Head Start and Head Start federal grants
- ♦ Private \$\$ include foundations, corporations, individuals, United Way
- ♦ Schools, by themselves, cannot access many of these sources

Our Four Mantras



- ♦ It's all about relationships
- ♦ Everything has to be negotiated—all the time
- ♦ Get the right partners doing the right work with the right students
- ♦ For community schools to work, the partners have to have the word “yes” written in their hearts

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