



Community Schools

A Fact Sheet

A community school is a public school that collaborates with partners to create an excellent education for all of its students.

It's a strategy, not a program

The community schools approach means first-class instruction, supports to remove barriers to learning, and meaningful family and community involvement. Carefully chosen and monitored partnerships help create the conditions for successful learning for every child - before, during, and after the academic day - coordinated by a professional for greatest effectiveness. Besides addressing academic areas, these partnerships address the health and social areas that affect students as they prepare to be college students, workforce members, and lifelong learners.

Schools using the community schools approach typically include:

- an excellent instructional program
- expanded learning opportunities
- health and mental health services
- opportunities for family members to share and develop their skills
- meaningful service-learning and connection to the community

It helps students, families, schools, and communities

When schools and their strategically chosen partnerships operate together cohesively and toward a united set of goals, student achievement rises, families and neighborhoods become stronger, and schools become safer and more effective. There are successful, comprehensive community schools in almost every state. Research on these school-community partnerships shows:

- improved outcomes for students in academic and essential non-academic areas like attendance, behavior, and contact with supportive adults
- greater family stability and involvement in learning
- improved school climate and safety
- greater strength and pride in surrounding communities

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