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Brief Overview: Community Schools
Community School

• A **public and private community partnership**
• Coordinates educational, developmental, family, health, and after-school-care programs during school and non-school hours for students, families, and local communities at a public school or public charter school

• **Objectives:**
  • Improve academic achievement
  • Reduce absenteeism
  • Building stronger relationships among students, parents, and communities
  • Improve the skills, capacity, and wellbeing of the surrounding community residents
If schools work in partnership with parents and community members to help build resources and support for students and their families…

Increased academic success for District students is possible!
Grantee Highlight:
Communities In Schools of the Nation’s Capital at J.O. Wilson
Communities In Schools (CIS) of the Nation’s Capital at J.O. Wilson is a consortium comprised of the District of Columbia Public School (DCPS)-J.O. Wilson Elementary School and CIS.

J.O. Wilson Elementary School

- **Location:** Ward 6
- **Grades Served:** Pre-K3 - 5
- **Student Demographics (as of 2015-16 school year):**
  - Approximately 505 students; approximately 82 percent African American; 6 percent Hispanic/Latino; 7 percent white; 1 percent Asian; and 4 percent multiracial; 2 percent English language learners; 100 percent free and reduced-priced lunch; 14 percent special education; and 24 percent in-boundary
Grantee Highlight

- Community School Grantee
  - Year two of OSSE grant implementation

- Five Primary Community School Goals
  - Mental health and physical health support
  - Prevention and intervention for truancy and absenteeism
  - Socio-emotional supports
  - Academic enrichment
  - Parent engagement

- Program Highlight: Socio-emotional Supports
  - Why? Needs assessment
  - What? Social-emotional learning supports and life skills development
  - Who? Community partners
  - How? Monitoring and evaluation
Board Role and Responsibilities
Role and Responsibilities

Role and responsibilities:

– Advise OSSE and the mayor on the progress of community schools in the District
– Identify supports that can further enhance the implementation of the community schools
– Provide feedback on evaluation plan
– Assess sustainability of the initiative
On Jan. 27, 2017 OSSE proposed a new board structure. The new structure would:

- Be board-led and driven, with OSSE’s support.
- Have one or two co-chairs who either would be appointed or nominated by the board.

Decision points:
- New board structure
- Number of chairs
- Appointed, self-appointed, nominated or combination

First task:
- Develop a letter in response to the recently completed community schools evaluation report, which would be issued to the mayor.
UPDATE:

• At the Jan. 27, 2017 board meeting, board deferred decision on new board structure to next board meeting (March 22, 2017).

• As a temporary solution, board agreed to the identification of four “interim” co-chairs to ensure the completion of the first task, while having fair representation of the various sectors comprised of the board.

• Four interim co-chairs were identified and together developed a letter to the mayor, which was issued on March 9, 2017.
In September 2016, OSSE ESSE launched a Community Schools Community of Practice (CoP). The purpose of the sessions are for all District of Columbia LEAs that would like to receive training and technical assistance in creating and sustaining a community school.

Upcoming Topics of Discussion:

- Finance/Sustainability (April 19, 2017)
  *This session will focus on how community schools leverage dollars; consider potential funding streams, and how to access additional funding streams.*

- “Telling Your Community School Story”/ Wrap-up (May 18, 2017)
  *This session will focus on advocacy (i.e., how to use data to advocate, and wrap-up with preparation for community of practice sessions for next school year).*
Upcoming Board Meetings
Board meetings will continue to be held bi-monthly on Wednesdays at 10-11:30 a.m. An invite will be sent prior to each meeting.

2017 Meeting Schedule

• May 17, 2017
• July 26, 2017
• Sept. 20, 2017
Stay in Touch

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