Community Schools: 101
What are they? And how do I get started?

Bernice B. Massiwer
October 17, 2018
Presentation Objectives

• Define what is a community school
• Describe the community schools strategy
• Share information about the Community Schools Collaborative Leadership Structure
• Help attendees identify action steps to move their community schools work forward
Community Schools Video

Watch the Video
What is a Community School

- A community school **is a place and a set of partnerships** connecting school, family, and community. A community school is distinguished by its integrated focus on academics, youth development, family support, health and social services, and community development.

- They require strategic partnerships among schools, partner agencies, families, and community members. A community schools strategy leverages, coordinates, and maximizes resources and includes a coordinator to manage day-to-day activities at each school site.
Fully Developed Community School Framework
Community Schools Framework

Integrated Health & Social Supports

Powerful Learning

Authentic Family & Community Engagement

Results-focused Partnerships
Integrated Health and Social Supports

- Mental Health
- Housing assistance
- Peer conflict resolution
- Family stability programs
- Positive discipline practices (e.g. restorative practices)
- Health, dental and vision services

Results-focused Partnerships
Powerful Learning

- Challenging and culturally relevant curricula
- High quality services provided to ELL and special education students
- Community based learning
- Real world learning through career and technical education and apprenticeships

Results-focused Partnerships
• Parent teacher home visits
• School-based family resource centers
• School staff, families, and partners participate in community asset mapping
• Career preparation experiences
• Parent leadership

Authentic Family and Community Engagement

Results-focused Partnerships

• www.communityschools.org • www.iel.org
A Community School is a place and a set of strategic partnerships among a school and other community resources that promote student achievement, positive conditions for learning and the well-being of families and communities. Through the work of a community-based partner, each Community School leverages unique community resources to meet community needs, and maintains a core focus on children, while recognizing that children grow up in families, and that families are integral parts of communities. This integrated approach will lead to student success, strong families and healthy communities.
OAKLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
WHERE ALL STUDENTS GRADUATE COLLEGE, CAREER, AND COMMUNITY READY

[Image of a tree with various labels]

EVALUATION AND LEARNING
HEALTH AND WELLNESS
COLLABORATION
RELATIONSHIPS
EQUITY
COORDINATION
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
DIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIPS
LEADERSHIP
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING
SCHOOL READINESS AND TRANSITIONS

[Logos of various organizations]
Small Group: Exploring the community school vision

• What stands out to you?

• What questions do you have?
Looking Inside: School Level

SCHOOL-SITE LEADERSHIP
Key Roles: Planning and Implementation
School Site Benchmarks

**Collaborative Leadership**

- Relationships with lead agencies and locals partners based on shared vision are established.
- Site teams representing school and partner staff, families and community members lead school site team.
- Skilled, full-time coordinators are in place.

**Results-based Vision**

- Planning and implementation at every school site are aligned with the community-wide vision.
- At every site, a results and indicators framework based on the community-wide framework organizes the work.
- Priority is given to specific results based on site needs and indicators are used to track progress.
School Site Benchmarks

**Data and Evaluation**

- Site teams make decisions about which data are most relevant and useful to collect based on result and indicator frameworks.
- Relevant data on participation, implementation and results is analyzed and used to make continuous improvement in practice and recommendations for policy change.

**Alignment and Integration**

- School partners, within and across linked sites, participate in developing the school improvement plan which reflects the site’s results framework.
- The school and its partners integrate academic and non-academic supports, services and opportunities to attain agreed upon results for the initiative.
- Instructional content and methods, during and after school hours, reflect community school principles and selected indicators.
## School Site Benchmarks

### Supportive Policy
- A clear and coherent set of practices and policies with respect to site level implementation guides both school staff and community partners and fosters integration between in-school and after school activities.
- Personnel policies of school sites, lead agencies and partner agencies are aligned and reviewed regularly to foster positive working relationships across shared staffs.

### Financing and Development
- Site level partners play a significant role in identifying and leveraging local revenue sources including in kind contributions from partner agencies.
- Grant money is sought and used strategically to leverage additional resources.
- Resources are earmarked to finance a community school coordinator position at each site.
School Site Benchmarks

PD and Technical Assistance

- School staff and site level partners participate in joint PD and planning time designed to deepen the integration between in-school and after-school teaching and learning.

- Community school coordinators receive pre-service training from the initiative and site level partners participate in relevant school-run PD activities.

Community Engagement

- The community school promotes itself as the hub of the neighborhood and utilizes the name and logo of the initiative in building its own identity.

- Leadership development opportunities for parent/family members and residents enable them to carry out their leadership tasks.

- Parents and residents represent the concerns of community schools and their neighborhoods in decision-making forums at all levels (e.g., neighborhood associations, housing commissions, city council, and the school board).
Getting Started

• Convene Innovators
  • Families, school leaders, community partners, educators

• Vision and Strategic Plan
  • Results Based Logic Model (next slide)
  • Data Sharing Agreements

• Needs/Asset Assessment

• Financing
  • Making the Case
  • Identifying Funding Streams

• Sustainability – not just about finance
Community Schools: A Results-Based Logic Model

**Inputs**
- Community School Coordinator
- Sufficient staff (expertise + availability)
- Sufficient resources (e.g., funding, facilities)
- Available/relevant partners
- Leadership & Initiative level infrastructure
- Support from schools and community

**What Can Happen at a Community Schools?**
- Family engagement (e.g., adult education)
- Extended Learning Opportunities/Youth Development
- Health, mental health, and social services; family support
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Early Childhood Development
- Professional development (school staff and community)
- Linkages between schools and partners

**Outputs**
- Supported Families
- Comprehensive learning supports
- Integrated academic enrichment and social services to support children's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development
- High quality, engaging, instructional programs
- Partner integration into school day

**Short-term Results (proximal)**
- Children are ready to enter school
- Students attend school consistently
- Students are actively involved in learning and their community
- Families are increasingly involved in their children's education
- Schools are engaged with families and communities

**Long-term Results (distal)**
- Students succeed academically
- Students are healthy, physically, socially and emotionally
- Students live & learn in a safe, supportive, and stable environment
- Communities are desirable places to live

**Impact**
- Students graduate ready for college, careers, and civic life

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**Your Planned Work**

**Your Intended Results**
Pair and Share: Are you READY to START?

• What pieces do you already have in place?

• Who do you need to involve for further planning?
OSSE Community of Practice: Community Schools 101
October 17, 2018

Action Plan Goal/Result:

List three action steps that you would like to accomplish when you return to your school or organization to deepen the implementation of your community schools work using what you have learned. Identify an action, who needs to play a role, and what further support or resources you need.

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<th>Prioritized Action</th>
<th>Who Needs to Play a Role</th>
<th>What Further Support Do You Need</th>
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About the Coalition for Community Schools

- Established in 1997
- House at the Institute for Educational Leadership
- Alliance of over 200 national, state and local organizations
- Our partners span the sectors of education K-16, youth development, community planning and development, family support, health and human services, government and philanthropy as well as national, state and local community school networks
Coalition Vision and Mission

• **Shared Vision**: Schools are centers of flourishing communities where everyone belongs, works together, and thrives.

• **Mission**: To unite school, community and family for young people’s success.
Thank you

Bernice B. Massiwer
Partnerships Manager
Coalition for Community Schools
massiwerb@iel.or
202-822-8405 ext. 156
@bbutler180
www.communityschools.org