

The Central Oregon Regional Action  
Committee  
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# 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 academic, services, supports and opportunities leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. *Coalition for Community Schools*

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# What is a Community School?

Full-service community schools provide comprehensive academic, social, mental, physical, and vocational programs, and services to meet individual, family and community needs. *U.S. Department of Education (2008)*

# Components of a Community School?

- Academic Achievement
- After-school and Summer Enrichment
- Parent and Family Support and Involvement
- Health Services
- Community Development
- Systems to Gather and Analyze Data

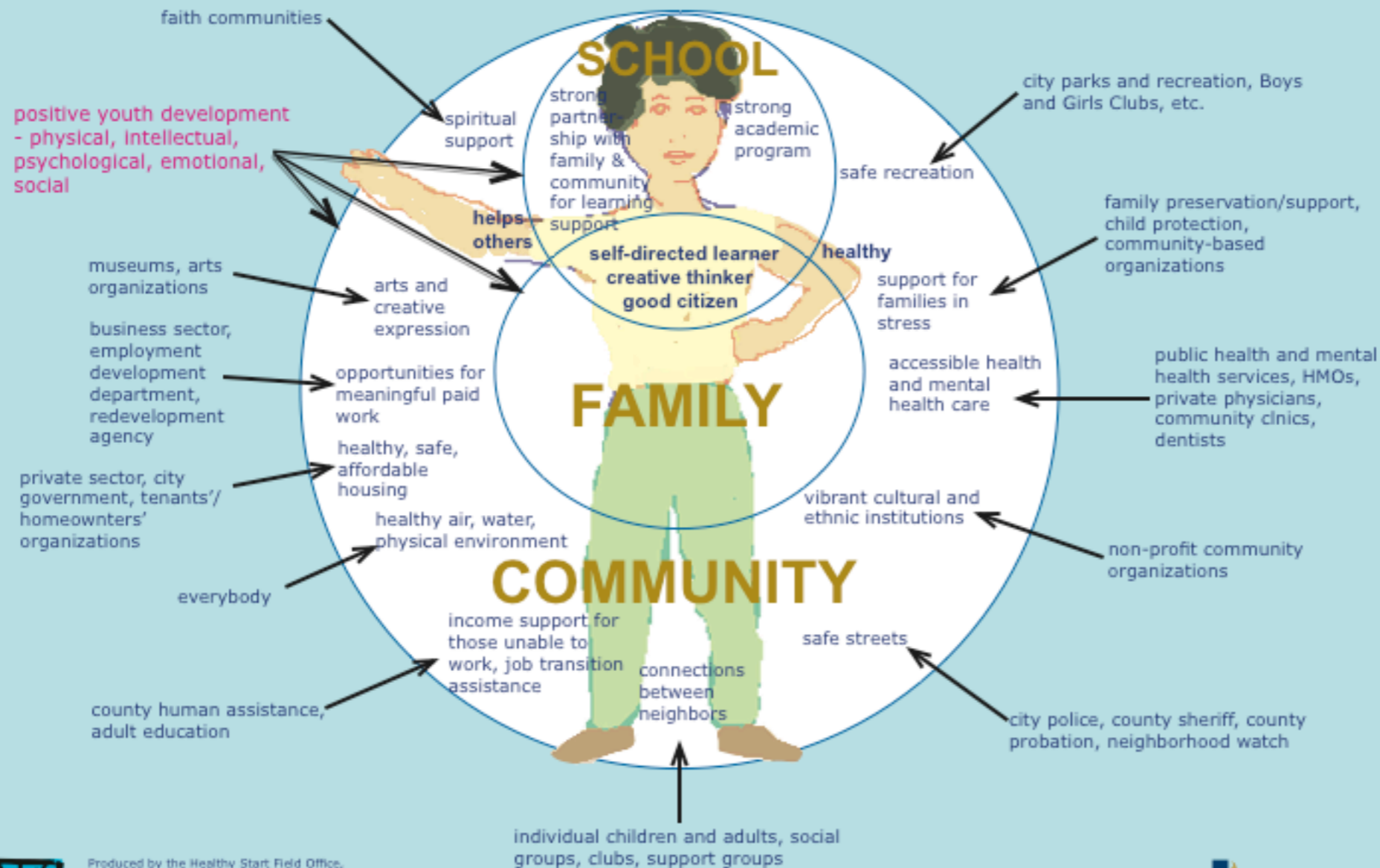
# Community School Models

- Children's Aid Society
- California Healthy Start
- Communities in Schools
- Schools Uniting Neighborhoods--SUN
- Chicago Community Schools Initiative
- Tulsa, Cincinnati, Dayton, Hartford, Lincoln, and other city community school initiatives
- Beacon Schools
- University-Assisted Schools (Penn, UCLA, UCSD)

# The Whole Child

## Why Community Schools?

### Interdependence



## Shared Accountability



Produced by the Healthy Start Field Office,  
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Communities for Student Success  
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# Community Schools for All



**Ira Harkavy**

*Chair - Coalition for Community Schools*

# Research Base

- **After School** (D. Vandell, A. Rebeck Black et al.)
- **Parent and Family Involvement** (Henderson and Mapp, Epstein)
- **School Health Centers** (Gall, et al., McCord et al., Kisker and Brown .)
- **Youth Development** (J. Eccles, M. McLaughlin, B. Miller)

# National Community Schools Movement

- Rep. Steny Hoyer's Full-service Community Schools Act
- ARRA funds <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/uses.doc>
- Title I funds [http://communityschools.org/CCSDocuments/Title\\_I\\_and\\_Community\\_Schools.pdf](http://communityschools.org/CCSDocuments/Title_I_and_Community_Schools.pdf)
- Promise Neighborhoods (*planning grants to 20 cities, \$10 M. for CBOs to replicate Harlem Children's Zone initiatives*)
- A Broader, Bolder Approach to Education (*Helen Ladd, Pedro Noguera, Tom Payzant*) <http://www.boldapproach.org/>
- A New Day for Learning C.S. Mott Initiative <http://www.edutopia.org/files/existing/pdfs/ANewDayforLearning.pdf>
- U.S. Secretary of Education Duncan's public support

# Evaluating Community Schools

## Results Based Accountability

- How much did we do?
- How well did we do it?
- Is anyone better off?

# Evaluating Community Schools

Outcomes/Results	Indicators	Data Collection
Students attend school consistently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absenteeism</li> <li>• Tardiness</li> <li>• Truancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance records</li> </ul>
Students succeed academically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standardized test scores</li> <li>• Formative/classroom assessments</li> <li>• Graduation and drop-out rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievement data</li> </ul>
Students are healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical fitness</li> <li>• Asthma control</li> <li>• Positive adult and/or peer relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitness data, student surveys</li> <li>• ER visits</li> <li>• Student surveys</li> </ul>
Families are actively engaged in their children's education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families attendance at school events</li> <li>• Families support students' education at home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher/student/family surveys</li> </ul>

# Results of 3-Year Evaluation of 6 NYC Middle Schools (2004–2007)

## Academic Performance

- Steadily rising increases in math and reading test scores for participants that completed all 3 years

## School Attendance

- Higher level of school attendance than non-participants
- Students participating all 3 years had highest attendance for participants

## Positive Youth Development

- All participants reported significant increases in self-esteem, school engagement and career aspirations
- A higher percentage of participants utilized learning resources (library, internet and computer programs) to help with school and research projects

## Program Attendance and Positive Results

- Teachers reported that 6th graders with high levels of participation *were more motivated to come to schools to learn and more likely to volunteer for extra credit*

# Educators' Measure of Success

## *American Federation of Teachers*



# Necessary conditions for a Successful Community School

- Site leader is a strong advocate
- Collaborative process for shared leadership and governance
- A full-time community schools coordinator to convene CBO, Business, and agency partners.
- Leveraging evaluation results is paramount
- Continued training, technical assistance, and support

# Resources and Tools

- Coalition for Community Schools Tools [http://www.communityschools.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=51](http://www.communityschools.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=51)
- Children's Aid Society National Center for Technical Assistance <http://www.childrensaidsociety.org/communityschools/starting>
- UC Davis, Community School Partnerships Toolkit <http://hsfo.ucdavis.edu/node/640>
- Stanford University John Gardner Center: BASICS Tool Kit <http://johnwgardnertestsite.pbworks.com/>
- Boston Full Service Schools Tool Kit <http://sites.google.com/site/cstoolkit/Home>

# Journal Articles and Books

- Partnering with Communities to Promote Student Success : A Review of the Research (*L. Miller, N. Erbstein, 2008*)
- Inside Full-Service Community Schools (*J. Dryfoos, S. Maguire, 2002*)
- Building a Community School (*Children's Aid Society, 2001*)
- School, Family, and Community Partnerships (*J. Epstein, 2009*)
- Dewy's Dream (*I. Harkavy, J. Pucket, 2007*)
- Community Schools: Working Toward Institutional Transformation (*H. Adelman, L. Taylor, 2008*)
- It's Being Done: Academic Success in Unexpected Schools (*K. Chenoweth, 2007*)

# A Rural Community School



# Final Words

- It's all about the relationships
- Everything has to be negotiated -- all the time
- Evaluate and document your successes
- For community schools to work, the partners have to have the word "yes" in their hearts