



Core Components of a Community School

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Diana Hall, SUN Service System & Community Schools

What is a Community School?

- An approach rather than a program.
- A place and a set of partnerships
- Schools, families and communities work together to support successful children
- Ensures children are physically, emotionally and socially ready to learn and strengthens families & communities
- Integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities
- Shared leadership and accountability for student learning, healthy families and thriving communities



Typical School/Community Structure



**Core Academic
Program**

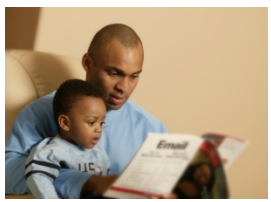


**Health &
Social Services**



**Recreation &
Enrichment**

Community Schools Structure



Integrated School Services & Activities

Key Elements



- Focus on relationships
- A mix of services from the 3 key domains: academics/core instruction, enrichment & recreation, and social and health services
- Principal championship
- Designated site coordinator/manager
- Community-driven: Student, parent and community involvement



Potential Service Components



High-Quality Core Instruction & Enhancement

Caring Adult Relationships

Youth Development

Extended Day Programming

Health & Social Services

Applied Service Learning

Parent/Caregiver Education & Engagement

Early Childhood

Adult Education



Best Practices



- Engage a broad constituency & set of champions from the beginning
- Draw from existing assets & resources
- Plan for sustainability from the beginning
- Align & integrate with school vision/School Improvement Plans
- Develop key structures: advisory/leadership, partner coordination, student staffing
- Non-school lead agency partner



Resources & Funding

Existing Funding Models

National Resources

- 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants
- Safe & Drug Free Schools Grants
- Full Service Community Schools grants

State/Local Resources

- Education & Social Service Funding
- Suppers program
- Transportation
- Commission on Children & Families
- United Way
- Workforce Development Programs
- AmeriCorps
- Community organizations, program partners, faith & business community

“Change comes from the community level and often through partnerships. Complex problems require flexible, integrated solutions.”

Community Assets





Sustainability & Resources

Start Where You Are

- Align existing resources and consider innovative ways to use what you have differently
- Weave multiple strands together

Engage Champions Early & Continue “Care & Feeding”

Establish a Results Framework & Collect Data

Diversify

Key Resources

- Coalition for Community Schools’ Sustainability Planning Checklist
- The Finance Project



Community schools evolve
developmentally and take time
& commitment -
long-term relationships, trust,
sustainable funding & results
are something to build toward

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