School Climate: Innovative Approaches for School-wide Change
Friday, October 18, 2013

Community Schools

The Children’s Aid Society
About Children’s Aid

The Children’s Aid Society helps children in poverty to succeed and thrive.

We do this by providing comprehensive supports to children and their families in targeted high-needs New York City neighborhoods.
“Could someone help me with these? I’m late for math class.”

Scott Spencer
What is a Community School?

A strategy for organizing the resources of the school and the community around student success...

Pat Harvey, Former Superintendent
St. Paul Public Schools
CAS Developmental Triangle

- CORE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
- EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Community
Family
Child

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES
Sample Program Components

- After-School and Summer Enrichment
- Parent Engagement
- Adult Education
- Medical, Dental, Mental Health and Social Services
- Early Childhood
- Community and Economic Development
Results of Mature Community School Initiatives

- Improved academic performance
  - Every CAS elementary school scored at least 70% on progress; city-wide mean is 50%.
- Improved student and teacher attendance
- Reduced dropout rates and higher graduation rates
- Improved behavior
- Gains in indicators of positive youth development
- Greater parent involvement
  - in San Mateo County, California, 93% of parents attended parent-teacher conferences
- Community benefits, such as better use of public buildings and safer neighborhoods

Coalition for Community Schools Research Brief
Lessons about Leverage

- Non-education dollars from multiple sources can be leveraged
  - CAS schools: approximately 2/3 public funding (e.g., OST, Medicaid, early childhood) and 1/3 private

- Better utilization of existing services when in schools (City Connects, Mental Health Services)

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan calls Community Schools “the most highly leveraged dollars I spent in Chicago”
Lessons about Implementation

- Starts with the Principal
- Aligned outcomes
- Difficult to do it school by school
- Data sharing
Social Return on Investment

- Recent study: *Measuring Social Return on Investment for Community Schools*
- The Finance Project and The Children’s Aid Society
- $10:1 return for elementary schools
- $14:1 return for middle schools
- [www.nationalcenterforcommunityschools.org](http://www.nationalcenterforcommunityschools.org)