

A community school is...

...a place and a set of partnerships connecting school, family, and community. A community school is distinguished by an integrated focus on academics, youth development, family support, health and social services, and community development. Its curriculum emphasizes real-world learning through community problem-solving and service. By extending the school day and week, it reaches families and community residents. The community school is uniquely equipped to develop its students into educated citizens ready and able to give back to their communities.

A system of community schools is...

...a vertical network of schools from pre-kindergarten through grade 12 in a single attendance area, linked across one or more school districts. The networks use a community schools approach to align services, support, and enrichment opportunities with young people's development needs and the school system's academic objectives. They sustain these efforts through policy and financial support of the school district and its public and private community partners.

A community where learning happens is...

...a community-wide infrastructure able to support the social, emotional, and physical development of all children and families; to engage them in learning; and to connect them to relationships and opportunities that will help every young person achieve in school and make successful transitions from childhood to adulthood.