

# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

## CINCINNATI COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS



*A District-wide Initiative (55 schools)*

<http://www.cps-k12.org/community/CLC/CLC.htm>

## CINCINNATI, OHIO

### PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are the foundation of Community Learning Centers. Partners include:

- ◆ Cincinnati Public Schools
- ◆ The CLC Institute
- ◆ United Way
- ◆ The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- ◆ YMCA
- ◆ City of Cincinnati Health Department
- ◆ Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- ◆ Xavier University
- ◆ University of Cincinnati
- ◆ The Civic Garden Center
- ◆ Adopt a Class
- ◆ And hundreds of other organizations and agencies

At the school site, a School Based Resource Coordinator develops, integrates and facilitates site based community partnerships and resources responsive to the needs and priorities of the school, the community, the community learning center's One Plan, and CPS district wide goals and initiatives.

### RESULTS

- ◆ Since adopting the CLC strategy, Cincinnati is the first urban district in Ohio to receive an "effective" rating and is the highest performing urban district in Ohio.
- ◆ High school graduation rates have climbed from 51% in 2000 to 83% in 2009.
- ◆ Achievement gap between African American students and white students narrowed from 14.5% in 2003 to 4.3% in 2009.

### BACKGROUND

Cincinnati's Community Learning Centers Initiative started in 2001 when the Board of Education adopted a vision for a district-wide redevelopment of all schools as centers of their community. A \$1 billion Facilities Master Plan was approved by the voters in 2002 with a promise that each school would be a community learning center. The foundational element of the initiative is the engagement of each school and its surrounding neighborhood in the planning, implementation and ongoing governance of its community learning centers. Another key principle is that all partnerships must be financially self-sustaining without dependence upon the school budget.

The goals of the CLC are to support student achievement, revitalize neighborhoods and maximize the community's return on their financial investments. CLCs act as hubs for community services, providing access for students, families and community to health, safety and social services, as well as recreational, educational and cultural opportunities.

### LEADERSHIP

Cincinnati CLCs employ a series of leadership structures to achieve its goals:

**CLC Partnership Networks:** A collaboration of similar agencies, organizations and other resources committed to shared mission, vision and goals aligned with the CPS Community Learning Centers, the CPS Strategic Plan and relevant regional initiatives. Each partnership network (e.g., health, mental health, nature, college access, early childhood, tutoring, mentoring, parent engagement, community engagement, and after school) has a dedicated network leader to facilitate the collaboration, build capacity, and provide ongoing support for implementation at the site level.

**CLC Cross Boundary Leadership Team (CBLT):** Brings together leaders of the partnership networks to plan and organize how resources will be allocated and organized at different Community Learning Centers.

**CLC Funders Network:** Major CLC funders including the Cincinnati Public Schools, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation facilitate the flow of public and private support and are actively engaged as collaborative partners.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CLCs provide programming during and beyond the school day and year round, including after school and summer enrichment, intergraded and comprehensive health services, adult education, early childhood education, college access, parent/family engagement, mentoring and tutoring. Unique partnerships are customized to each site. For example, an international welcome center at the Roberts CLC in partnership with the Guatemalan and Mexican consulates attracts more than 800 families. Legal assistance, tax preparers, English classes, social activities and regular coffee talk hours are catalysts for a new global community. At the Pleasant Ridge Montessori CLC, the parents and community created the first neighborhood Montessori program in the region and the first silver LEED certified school in Ohio. A partnership with Xavier University's Montessori Education Department is further transforming the school to become the first professional development school in the district.



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