

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

OYLER COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

CINCINNATI COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

A District-wide Initiative (55 schools)



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

CINCINNATI, OHIO

PARTNERSHIPS

- ◆ Adopt A Class Foundation
- ◆ YMCA
- ◆ Cincinnati Youth Collaborative
- ◆ Freestore Food Bank
- ◆ E.W. Scripps
- ◆ Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- ◆ Kemba Credit Union
- ◆ Growing Well Cincinnati
- ◆ National Marketshare Group
- ◆ Santa Maria Community Services
- ◆ Cincy After-School

RESULTS

What was once a failing elementary school is now a pre-k-12 school on the rise.

- ◆ Oyler has moved from a starting point of Academic Emergency through Academic Watch and is now in Continuous Improvement.
- ◆ The school has increased its Performance Index 15.2 points, higher than all other elementary schools in the Superintendent's Elementary Initiative.
- ◆ Students are graduating from high school and matriculating to college in record numbers. With the 2010 senior class and two prior years of graduates from an accelerated program, Oyler has graduated more students in the neighborhood from high school in the past 3 years than in the collective 85 prior years.



BACKGROUND

Oyler was once an elementary school whose graduating 8th graders had the city's highest rate of dropouts. Only 14% of Oyler's urban Appalachian students made it to 10th grade and even fewer graduated from high school. The neighborhood had one of the highest adult illiteracy rates in the country. Currently, the Title I school is 37% African American, 1% Hispanic, and 62% Caucasian, primarily urban Appalachian. 92% of the students receive free or reduced lunch and 29% are students with disabilities.

In 2002, faced with the highest high school dropout rate in the district, family and community members partnered with CPS to create a new vision for the school and for the community - a preK-12 Community Learning Center. Through the community engagement process, residents made the case to the school board that this configuration was much more likely to enable their children to graduate than continuing to attend much larger comprehensive high schools. The transformation supported a district-wide goal to transform all Cincinnati schools into Community Learning Centers (CLCs). In 2010, the new Oyler graduated its first high school class and sent more than half the class to college.

LEADERSHIP

Community members and parents played an integral role in the planning and implementation of the community school effort. It was the members of the community that pushed for the transformation into a preK-12 school. Local businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations were involved as planning partners and continue to participate with parents and residents in guiding the Oyler's work.

The CLC Institute provides the school with a fully funded, full-time resource coordinator to manage and supervise the school's many partnerships. It also offer continuing technical assistance and support.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The City of Cincinnati Health Department operates a comprehensive school-based health clinic which is available to all students, and provides primary care, dental care and vision. The school partners with St. Aloysius, a community health mental provider, which provides a team of mental health professional on site daily and a supervising physician. College access services, after school programming, and job training are all provided by community partners. More than 400 volunteers come weekly to tutor students, and every class has a business partner which provides year long mentors for each classroom through the Adopt A Class Foundation.

As the historic building's \$17 million dollar renovation is completed, new partnerships being added include a 0-5 early childhood center to be operated by a community partner with funding for the build out of the space provided by a private family foundation, a community optometry center, the first school based food pantry in the region, and a green roof/science lab being developed in partnership with the Civic Garden Center, local businesses, and volunteers. These are just a few examples of the many partners which have brought their own resources to the Oyler Community Learning Center, bringing millions of dollars of supports and enrichments to students, their families and the neighborhood.



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