TULSA, OKLAHOMA

BACKGROUND
The Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative (TACSI) was established through the Tulsa Metropolitan Human Services Commission (MHSC) in 2007 and is administered by the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa (CSC). TACSI recognizes the need to engage the entire community in aligning and developing community resources to educate the whole child, by building relationships based on collective trust. It believes that community schools should serve as centers of community life, offering comprehensive and integrated programs, services, and opportunities to students, families, and neighbors in the community. Sustained by family, school and community partnerships, community schools provide nurturing environments and enriching opportunities which promote successful learning. With the support of community schools, every student will graduate from high school with a complete education, equipped with the academic, physical, social, and emotional skills needed to achieve success and continued active involvement in the community.

TACSI schools focus on seven core components:
1. Early care and learning
2. Health/health education
3. Mental health/social services
4. Youth development/out-of-school time
5. Family/community engagement
6. Neighborhood development
7. Lifelong learning

There are currently 18 community schools across 2 school districts with plans to expand.

LEADERSHIP
TACSI provides leadership and influence to engage local communities in creating and sustaining community schools that support academic success, strengthen families, and engage communities. TACSI is guided by a community steering committee. The TACSI Resource Center at CSC staffs a Management Team with leaders from the two participating school districts, Union and Tulsa, and other stakeholders. This structure assures focused, accountable leadership within the community and key institutions for implementing and grounding TACSI in developing evidence-based conditions for learning.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
TACSI programs include:
- Linkages so that each child will experience healthy, natural transitions from one learning environment to the next.
- Before, during, and after school activities as well as summer opportunities offer enrichment opportunities for students and their families.
- Mentoring To The Max offers opportunities to establish ongoing relationships with caring adults.
- Global Gardens empowering students and communities through the process of creating community gardens. Committed to the values of inquiry-based and peach education.
- Seniors in Schools brings neighborhood senior citizens and students together building relationships and establishing a greater respect among generations.
- Neighborhood Planning Academy gives the school community and neighborhood residents the opportunity to plan and act together.
- Exploration of College and Career through higher education, workforce and business partners.
- OU Physicians Tulsa Community Health Clinics serve high need students, their families, and the surrounding communities.
- Mental health services provided to individual students, groups, and families.