

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

SCHOOLS UNITING NEIGHBORHOODS (SUN)



64 Community Schools across Six Districts

<http://web.multco.us/sun/sun-community-schools>

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PARTNERSHIPS

- ◆ Multnomah County
- ◆ City of Portland
- ◆ 6 School Districts
- ◆ Portland Children's Levy
- ◆ Oregon Department of Human Services
- ◆ Leader's Roundtable/Business
- ◆ Non-profit/Community Partners

RESULTS

Regularly participating students show strong gains in academics, attendance and behavioral areas:

- ◆ 75% increased state benchmark scores in Reading and 77% in Math.
- ◆ Average daily school attendance exceeded SUN's target at 94%.
- ◆ 88% of students improved in at least one interim academic or youth asset measure:
 - ◆ 71% improved classroom academic performance.
 - ◆ 64% improved homework completion.
 - ◆ 54% improved classroom behavior.
 - ◆ 60% came to school more motivated to learn.
- ◆ 84% of students identify that they have at least one caring adult they can go to.
- ◆ 92% of students identify that there is at least one thing they are really good at.



BACKGROUND

A unique partnership of city, county, state government, and six local school districts, started the Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Community Schools initiative in eight schools in 1999. Responding to community demand, and based on the results they were seeing, the partnership has now opened 60 community schools across the six districts. With Multnomah County acting as managing partner, SUN Community Schools bring together schools, community leaders, agency professionals, families and residents to plan the best ways to support youth through education, family involvement, and the community providing services and making good use of community buildings. A full-time SUN Manager at each school, funded by the partners, is responsible for coordinating the work of the school and community partners. SUN Managers are employed by community-based organizations that have long-standing credibility with the school.

SUN Community Schools:

- ◆ Extend the school day and broaden the educational resources for the community.
- ◆ Mobilize and coordinate community resources to support students and the community.
- ◆ Bring the community together to break down isolation and strengthen families.
- ◆ Build relationships across generations, cultures and incomes.

LEADERSHIP

Community Level Leadership

SUN Community Schools are the cornerstone of the broader SUN Service System, a multi-jurisdictional collaboration that provides an integrated system of support and care for school-age youth and their families. The SUN Coordinating Council is the system-level governance body for the system. It includes representatives from SUN partner organizations including the Director of the Multnomah County Department of County Human Services, high-level school district administrators, the Director of the City of Portland Children's Levy, the Director of Portland Parks and Recreation, community partners and others.

School Level Leadership

At the school level, the SUN model includes governance structures that are tailored to the site to ensure that critical roles are in place:

- ◆ **Operating Team:** comprised of the principal, SUN Community School (CS) site manager and SUN CS lead agency supervisor.
- ◆ **Site Advisory Structure:** guides the SUN CS development and is comprised of school staff, youth, families and community members.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SUN's core activities and services are:

- ◆ Extended-day academic and enrichment programs that are linked with the school day,
- ◆ Family involvement and strengthening programs,
- ◆ Health and social services for students, families and community,
- ◆ Community building events, and
- ◆ Adult education.

