Regularly participating students have shown strong gains in academics; attendance; behavior; and youth assets, including gaining confidence in school subjects. 70% of regular participants had increased state benchmark scores in reading and 71% had increased state benchmark scores in math. 93% of SUN students report that they have at least one adult whom they can go to for help. Teachers report 70% of students have improved homework completion rates, 80% have improved academic performance and 79% have a more positive attitude toward school.

SUN Schools help students and communities succeed by expanding the use of neighborhood schools. Programs are added for students and families before or after regular school hours, focusing on academics, recreation and enrichment. Health and social services, such as career counseling, are also provided. Many activities at a SUN School are open to the entire community. Since each school and neighborhood is unique, each SUN School looks different and will evolve over time.

SUN Schools build upon positive assets already in communities and link those with the activities offered in the school. SUN Schools tailor their events, classes, services and activities to what the local community wants, through the use of an Advisory Committee. Using an evaluation team to measure its impact, the SUN schools initiative celebrates its successes and continuously improves SUN School programs and their impact in the community.

Involving, serving, and responding to children, families, residents throughout the county, SUN Schools have become embedded in their communities. Touching all families by making every school a community school are long-term goals for Multnomah County and for the state. The success of SUN Community schools is illustrated by the growing demands among principals and communities to expand SUN to their schools too.

Who’s Who In Multnomah Co

Diane Dorfman, Sr. Research and Evaluation Analyst
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Diana Hall, Program Development & SUN CS Technical Assistance Coordinator
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Peggy Samolinski, SUN Service System Division Director
Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Chair

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Some Key Partners in Multnomah County

Cascadia Behavioral Health
Catholic Charities/El Program Hispana
City of Portland
City of Portland Parks & Recreation
Department of County Human Services
International Refugee Community Organization
Lifeworks NW
Lutheran Community Services NW
Metropolitan Family Service
Neighborhood House
Oregon Department of Human Services
Portland Impact
Self-Enhancement, Inc.

About Multnomah County

Multnomah is home to over 660,000 residents, including 91,327 children who attend public schools. 21% are people of color. 17% of children live in poverty; and 49% of students receive free/reduced lunch.

County demographics have shifted and diversified rapidly over the last two decades. From 1990-2000, the Latino population more than doubled and the Asian population increased by 30% since 1990. 80+ languages are spoken by school-aged children and families. Students and families in need now live in the suburbs as well as the city of Portland.