Community Schools is an Evidence-Based Strategy

July 6, 2017
About the Coalition for Community Schools

- Housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership
- Alliance of over 200 national, state, and local partner organizations
- Partners span the sectors of education K-16, youth development, community planning and development, family support, health and human services, government and philanthropy as well as national, state, and local community school networks
Presenters

• Dr. Jeannie Oakes, Presidential Professor Emeritus in Educational Equity at UCLA and Senior Fellow in Residence at the Learning Policy Institute

• Anna Maier, Learning Policy Institute

• Julia Daniel, National Education Policy Center
Community Schools
Building Schools that Build Communities

Jeannie Oakes
Anna Maier
Julia Daniel
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

AN EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY FOR EQUITABLE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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Today’s Challenges

- Income inequality
- Segregation
- Child poverty
- Tattered safety net
- Spending cuts
- Fragmented services
Solutions that Have Not Worked

- Testing without Investing
- More Tracking
- Narrowed Curriculum
- School Closures
- Privatization
Community schools are “both a place and a set of relationships between the school and community resources.”

— Coalition for Community Schools
The Four Pillars of Community Schools

- Integrated student supports
- Expanded learning time & opportunities
- Family & community engagement
- Collaborative leadership & practices
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Good School” Conditions</th>
<th>Community School Pillars</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Extra academic and social support</td>
<td>Integrated student supports</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Positive school climate and trusting relationships</td>
<td>Expanded learning time and opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Meaningful learning</td>
<td>Active parent and community engagement</td>
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<td>• Sufficient money and other resources</td>
<td>Collaborative leadership and practice</td>
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<td>• Strong family and community ties</td>
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<td>• Teacher collaboration and learning</td>
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<td>• Assessment as a tool for improvement</td>
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Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
ESSA Opportunities

- ESSA state plans
  - School improvement strategies (7% Title I set aside)
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Local decision making role

- Current budget negotiations may impact Title IV:
  - Full Service Community School grants
  - Promise Neighborhood grants
  - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants
  - 21st Century Community Learning Centers
  - Medicaid
## ESSA Evidence-Based Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 1</th>
<th>Tier 2</th>
<th>Tier 3</th>
<th>Tier 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong Evidence</td>
<td>Moderate Evidence</td>
<td>Promising Evidence</td>
<td>Emerging Evidence</td>
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### At least one well-designed study

- **Experimental study** (randomized control trial)
- **Quasi-experimental study**
- **Correlational study** with statistical controls
- **Demonstrates a rationale** and includes ongoing evaluation efforts
Community School Evidence
Our Research Review

Studies of
- Comprehensive programs

Studies of
- Each of the 4 pillars

Total reviewed
- 125 studies, including 49 research syntheses
Overall Findings

- Community schools meet the ESSA evidence standard
  - Comprehensive evaluations AND individual pillars
  - All four tiers of evidence

- A wide range of models yield benefits, including...
  - Academic achievement
  - Attendance and high school graduation
  - Peer/adult relationships and attitudes toward school
  - Reduced racial and economic achievement gaps
Overall Findings

• Cost-Benefit savings of $3 to $15 for every dollar invested

• Implementation matters. What does this mean?

  ➢ Coalition for Community Schools Implementation Standards

  ➢ National Center for Community Schools Building Community Schools Toolkit
    (see “Stages of Development” – Appendix C)
CCS Implementation Standards

- Collaborative Leadership
- Planning
- Coordinating Infrastructure
- Student-Centered Data
- Continuous Improvement
- Sustainability
Community Schools in Redwood City, CA

- Supplemental programs reached more than 70% of the students enrolled at those schools.
- English learner students with consistent program participation over time showed gains in English language development scores.
- Community school programs were linked to positive attitudes about school for middle school students.
Community Schools in Tulsa

Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative (TACSI): 27 schools

• Comprehensive, holistic programs, services, and opportunities
• Community and family engagement
• Community based learning

Research Base

• Rigorous quasi-experimental evaluation
• High-implementing schools: significantly higher 5th grade math and reading scores in years 3 & 4 of the reform
• Closed the gap for low-income students
Research-Based Lessons

Take a comprehensive approach with all 4 pillars, and pay attention to implementation.

Address local assets and needs through data-driven planning, and engaging family/community.

Provide enough time for planning and collaboration.
People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.

George Bernard Shaw
Messaging Research & Starting a Community School

• Messaging research
  • Sharing with media, policy-makers, funders, stakeholders
  • Put on your website, make presentations
  • Talk about your work and your results
  • Messaging guide: http://www.communityschools.org/multimedia/community_schools_messaging.aspx

• Starting a community school
  • www.communityschools.org → how to start a community school toolkit
  • www.communityschools.org/standards → newly released voluntary implementation standards
National Forum – Save the Date

Next Webinar

*A Healthy Schools Framework*

With the Alliance for a Healthier Generation

August 3rd, 3 PM EST