



Dayton's Neighborhood School Centers

*The opportunity to focus
Dayton's resources for
children and families*

WHAT ARE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL CENTERS? With the end of court-ordered busing and the opportunity to rebuild public schools, Dayton Public Schools are returning to neighborhood schools. To demonstrate the full potential of schools as the centers of their communities, a coalition of Dayton public and private partners conceptualized and supported four Dayton elementary schools as pilot "centers" of the redevelopment of their neighborhoods. These Neighborhood School Centers (NSCs) will demonstrate during a three-year test period what is required for schools to serve as community centers.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL CENTERS? The partners looked to a growing national movement and the Coalition for Community Schools for the best examples of cities that have made schools the centers of their communities. Community schools bring together many partners to offer a range of supports and opportunities to children, youth, families and communities. These partners work to ensure that:

- Children are ready to learn when they enter school and every day thereafter.
- All students learn and achieve to high standards.
- Young people are well prepared for adult roles in the workplace, as parents and as citizens.
- Families and neighborhoods are safe, supportive and engaged.
- Parents and community members are involved with the school and their own life-long learning.

Achieving these results is the responsibility of all of the community partners, not just the schools and teachers.

WHO IS IN CHARGE? The challenge of community leadership is shared authority and responsibility. For Dayton to succeed, individuals, organizations, associations and coalitions must work together and share the vision. To achieve this, the partners have created multiple levels of accountability.



WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF DAYTON'S NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL CENTERS? Each site will develop its own site objectives, reflecting the opportunities, assets and needs of the school and neighborhood. However, all of Dayton's Neighborhood School Centers and the initiative itself will be evaluated on the ability to:

- Improve student performance
- Improve quality of life in the neighborhood
- Attract families with school-aged children to the neighborhood
- Realign community resources to support youth achievement
- Sustain leadership and support for Neighborhood School Centers
- Develop in Dayton a replicable national model

WHAT IS THE DAYTON VISION SHARED BY THE PARTNERS?

New public schools are the centers of their neighborhoods, serving as healthy places of learning for children and families.

Funding Partners • Recruited and organized by The Dayton Foundation, these partners share a commitment to the vision and objectives of Neighborhood School Centers and provide funding to organize, administer and evaluate the pilot initiative.

Oversight Council • Recruited and organized by The Dayton Foundation, these individuals represent a cross-section of community leaders responsible for guiding the initial organization of the Neighborhood School Centers and maintaining a community commitment to the shared vision and objectives.

Neighborhood Planning Committees • Recruited and organized by the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community at the University of Dayton with appointments by Dayton Public Schools, neighborhood associations and lead agency partners, these committees guide the work of the sites and prioritize the efforts of the site coordinators. Where possible, these committees — including parents, teachers and principals — also serve as the building planning committees to advise Dayton Public Schools and its contract architects on the siting and design of the school buildings.

Steering Committee • Key public and private partners meet monthly with the superintendent of Dayton Public Schools to work out the administrative details of the NSCs. The partners are represented by their chief executive officers or delegates.

Management Team • The Fitz Center works on behalf of the partners to administer the organization and implementation of the community's vision for NSCs. The management team includes five experienced community leaders who administer the pilot initiative.



Site coordinators, back row: Mario, Amber Rose, Tashira Collier; front row: Nina Scroggins, Kym Beasley

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE SITE COORDINATOR?

The full-time site coordinator at each of Dayton's Neighborhood School Centers supports the school principal by managing the contributions of community partners who bring programs to the school site. The site coordinators are employed by Dayton nonprofit organizations committed to the initiative's vision. The site coordinators and their employers are the brokers of partnerships for the NSCs.

Cleveland Neighborhood School Center

Aaron Smith, principal
Kym Beasley, site coordinator
YMCA of Greater Dayton

Edison Neighborhood School Center

Antoinette Adkins, principal
Nina Scroggins, site coordinator
Dayton Urban League

Fairview Neighborhood School Center

Charles Davis, principal
Tashira Collier, site coordinator
Unified Health Solutions

Kiser Neighborhood School Center

James G. Fowler, principal
Amber Rose, site coordinator
Salvation Army of the Greater Dayton Area

Ruskin Neighborhood School Center

Devon Berry, principal
Mario, site coordinator
East End Community Services

ARE THE NSCs ALL IN NEW BUILDINGS?

No. Kiser and Cleveland opened in new buildings in 2006. Ruskin is under construction and will open in 2008. Edison and Fairview are in the building stages and will open in 2009 or 2010. However, the programs of the Neighborhood School Centers are already under way. The goal is to establish the partnerships and programs before opening the new buildings.

HOW ARE NSCs DIFFERENT FROM OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS?

Each NSC has a planning committee and site coordinator. These resources enable the community to work with the school to support its academic mission and to connect the school to the neighborhood. These sites should enable after-school, intersession and evening programming to occur without disruption to the school or its staff. Other neighborhood schools must rely primarily on the school principal or staff to administer all such programming.

HOW WERE THE SITES CHOSEN FOR NSCs?

In consultation with Dayton Public Schools, the steering committee selected the pilot elementary school sites based on institutional partners, improvement efforts in the neighborhood, geographic spread and active neighborhood associations. In all NSC neighborhoods, the potential for redevelopment is strong and the community commitment is clear.

WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PROGRAM OR EVENT IN A NSC?

Contact the school principal. If appropriate, the principal will ask the site coordinator to assist with the planning and implementation of the program or event.

WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE FOR ANOTHER DAYTON SCHOOL TO BECOME A NSC?

Contact the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community at the University of Dayton. No new Neighborhood School Centers will be attempted until the

three-year pilot is completed and evaluated. Expansion of the concept to other sites will depend on demonstrated value and appropriate funding.

TO SHARE AN IDEA, VOLUNTEER TO HELP, OR GET YOUR ORGANIZATION OR ASSOCIATION INVOLVED WITH A NSC, contact the site coordinator.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL CENTERS PARTNERS

Program Partners

Dayton Public Schools
Montgomery County
City of Dayton
United Way
Fitz Center for Leadership in Community

Lead Agencies

Dayton Urban League
East End Community Services
Salvation Army of the Greater Dayton Area
Unified Health Solutions
YMCA of Greater Dayton

Private Funding

The Antioch Company
Children's Medical Center
Culture Works
The Dayton Foundation
DP&L Foundation
Fifth Third Bank
Grandview Medical Center
The Iams Company
Iddings Foundation
KnowledgeWorks Foundation
MeadWestvaco Foundation
NCR Corporation
Premier Health Partners
United Way
University of Dayton
Virginia W. Kettering Foundation



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fitz Center for Leadership in Community
University of Dayton, 300 College Park
Dayton, OH 45469-1445
937-229-5400
Dick Ferguson, executive director
Don Vermillion, project director
Joanne Troha, service learning director
Roberta Weaver, EdD, consultant
Karen DeMasi, consultant

Site Coordinators

Cleveland Neighborhood School Center
Kym Beasley: 937-474-2091
Edison Neighborhood School Center
Nina Scroggins: 937-542-4540
Fairview Neighborhood School Center
Tashira Collier: 937-542-4598
Kiser Neighborhood School Center
Amber Rose: 937-475-3352
Ruskin Neighborhood School Center
Mario: 937-671-1178

DAYTON'S NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL CENTERS

