



## The Coalition for Community Schools Awards for Excellence

The [Coalition for Community Schools](#), an initiative of the [Institute for Educational Leadership \(IEL\)](#), is proud to present the annual awards program: Community Schools National Award for Excellence. This award highlights the work of local schools and communities and their efforts to build and expand effective community schools.

The awards were given based on the extent to which the community school or initiative has developed purposeful partnerships with other organizations that are well-integrated in the life of the school, the extent to which families and community residents are extensively involved in the community school, the extent to which school personnel are connected to community partners and to the community, and the extent to which community-based learning approaches are being used. In addition, schools receiving this award have demonstrated that the community school or the initiative is moving toward results that it has set for itself and has unique features and programs that others can learn from.

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# Initiative Award Winners

## 2017 Initiative Award Winners

### **Community Achieves (Nashville, TN)**

Community Achieves is an initiative of 23 schools serving more than 17,000 students that identifies, recruits and coordinates organizations to support the needs of students and their families. Community Achieves partners with organizations like the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce adding to district's nearly 600 external programs, supports and partnerships working in Community Achieves schools. Sixteen thousand students are being served in programs focusing on health and wellness; more than 2,100 students took advantage of college and career readiness opportunities last school year; and scholarship funds offered have doubled to almost \$16 million.

- [Watch a video of Community Achieves.](#)

### **NYC Community Schools Initiative (New York, NY)**

The NYC Community Schools Initiative is led by the NYC Department of Education and calls for all public agencies and community based groups that interact with young people and their families to organize themselves around the city's 150 community schools. Mayor Bill de Blasio and Chancellor Carmen Farina have taken active roles in ensuring that community schools are a major education priority supported by an Advisory Board of key stakeholders such as the United Federation of Teachers, community organizing groups, foundations, businesses, health providers, and others. As a result, NYC community schools have seen a 7.2% reduction in chronic absenteeism, a 1.8% increase in math, and a 5.7% increase in English language in the past year.

## 2015 Initiative Award Winners

### **Family League of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)**

The Family League of Baltimore in partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools and the Mayor and City Council, currently has 45 community schools across the city, each with a full-time community school coordinator, that provide students with health and mental health supports, after-school programs, and access to food, among other services. These efforts have contributed to reducing chronic absenteeism and increasing student participation in after-school programs. The Baltimore City Council recently passed a resolution urging the mayor to increase the budget for community schools and out-of-school programs to \$10 million, a \$4 million dollar increased investment.

### **United Way of Salt Lake (Salt Lake County, UT)**

United Way of Salt Lake, working within three, and soon to be four districts in the Salt Lake area, has helped increase student achievement and graduation rates. At one of United Way's partner schools, Granite Park Junior High, the percentage of students completing 9th grade on track to graduate has more than doubled in just two years. Their efforts also have increased preschool opportunities in their poorest neighborhoods. Seeing this works as a collective impact strategy, United Way has put more than \$21.5 million toward the initiative since 2012 and has set a goal of having 28 community schools in the region by 2017.

## 2013 Initiative Award Winners

### **Community Learning Centers (Cincinnati, OH)**

Led by Cincinnati Public Schools with support from the Greater Cincinnati United Way, the Greater Cincinnati Community Foundation, the Health Foundation of Cincinnati, the Schiff Family Foundation, the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, and the Community Learning Centers Institute, the initiative brings together hundreds of community partners to support students and teachers. There are now 35 Community Learning Centers (community schools) in the school district and a school board policy has directed the district to work on making all schools Community Learning Centers. The Initiative is credited with helping Cincinnati Public Schools become the highest-rated urban school district in Ohio. Schools feature an array of opportunities including state of the art health and vision clinics, mental health support, business-mentoring partnerships and after school programs among other services. The Centers have helped to reverse the long-time downward trend in district enrollment as more families move back in to the city to attend Cincinnati's Community Learning Centers. Since the implementation of the community school strategy in 2001, voters have demonstrated their commitment to the schools by overwhelmingly passing all school levies.

- [Watch the video of Cincinnati receiving its national award! \(16:45\)](#)
- [View video to learn more about Cincinnati Community Learning Centers. \(6:24\)](#)

### **Hartford Community Schools (Hartford, CT)**

A partnership between the Hartford Public Schools, the City of Hartford, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut Hartford has now organized seven community schools with plans to add more. Each school partners with a lead community-based agency that works to involve families and other partners. Students participating in after-school programming at the school district's seven community schools saw an increase in math, reading and writing scores between 2009 and 2010. Hartford Community Schools increased their state test scores by 5.6 points from 2009 to 2010. This represented twice the district's average increase over the same time period, and 15% growth since 2008 – all in one of the poorest major metropolitan cities in the country. Additionally, unprecedented collaboration between the school district, City Hall, and private and philanthropic organizations has expanded the reach and scope of the initiative. There has been an increase in partnerships since the implementation of community schools, with partners such as the Hartford Symphony and the Hartford Public Library. Funding from local foundations and partnering community organizations covered nearly 50% of school-based costs at Hartford's community schools.

- [Watch the video of Hartford receiving its national award! \(18:00\)](#)

## 2007 Initiative Award Winners

### **Independence School District, Independence, MO**

Everyone in Independence plays a role in educating young people. Each elementary and one high school has a School/Neighborhood Site Council that includes parents, teachers, community members, and students. These councils assess needs for their neighborhood and school and then implement action plans aimed at improving the well-being of students, families, neighborhoods and the community. In Independence, the public believes that a caring community builds on its strengths to provide meaningful opportunities for young people.

### **SUN Community Schools, Multnomah County, OR**

Young people have a voice in Multnomah County, Oregon, which includes the city of Portland. When the county began planning a community school initiative, not only did young people contribute ideas, they also named it. The name they chose, Schools Uniting Neighborhoods, or SUN schools, reflects the belief that schools, working with their communities, can do more than just teach math and reading, they can transform neighborhoods and help young people succeed.

### **Tukwila Community Schools Collaboration, Tukwila, WA**

Located just south of Seattle, Tukwila is the most diverse city in Washington State. Residents speak over 60 different languages and are highly mobile. Poverty, high drop-out rates and a lack of connections to the community are just some of the issues that the Tukwila Community Schools Collaboration (TCSC) has tackled since its inception in 2001. With a strong conviction that community resources had to be engaged to help the children and families living in Tukwila, TCSC was created to develop full service community learning centers. The city of Tukwila is a major supporter of the initiative, investing \$100,000 of city funds this year.

## **2006 Initiative Award Winners**

### **Bedford Community Education Initiative, Temperance, MI**

Bedford Public Schools holds the belief that their schools belong to the community. The community is strong because of the partnerships that exist between the schools, the parents, the business community, township government, social and civic organizations, county and state organizations and all of the citizens of the community. All of these constituents work together for the good of the community.

### **Chicago Public School Community School Initiative, Chicago, IL**

The goal of the initiative is to enable schools to bring together the academic and social supports needed to ensure that all students succeed. The programs are designed to support the school's academic mission and expand the services offered within the community.

### **Lincoln Community Learning Centers Initiative, Lincoln, NE**

Lincoln's Community Learning Centers (CLC) initiative strives to be a bridge that reconnects neighborhoods with schools and provides opportunities for parents and other neighborhood residents to become more effective partners in the education of all children and youth in the neighborhood.

# School Award Winners

## 2017 School Award Winners

### **Oakland International High School (Oakland, CA)**

Oakland International High School is part of the International Network of Public Schools where 100% of their students are recently-arrived immigrants from 33 countries, who speak over 30 languages. Students at OIHS receive a range of academic, legal, health, and social emotional services designed specifically to support immigrant youth and families. In addition, OIHS values the lived experience of students. All staff members participate in a day of professional development called "Community Walks" in which students plan a series learning activities including visiting important institutions in their community (mosques, cultural centers, legal aid centers, refugee support organizations etc) in order to provide staff better insight into how to support immigrants from their country.

- [Oakland International High School - 2017 Community School Awardee](#)

### **Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School (Nashville, TN)**

Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School is a Metro Nashville Public School committed to removing learning barriers by serving the whole child and whole family through "Academic Press and Personalization." Pearl-Cohn has focused its efforts in the following areas: Restorative Practices, Social-Emotional Learning, and Trauma-Informed Care. As part of the Community Achieves initiative, Pearl-Cohn aligns their 36 community partnerships around four pillars: Family Engagement, College and Career Readiness, Health and Wellness, and Social Services. As a result, Pearl-Cohn has seen a 68% reduction in discipline infractions, has fewer than 1% student expulsions, a 5% decrease in chronic absences, and a 41% reduction in mobility rate. Improvements have helped the school go from the lowest performing high school in Metro Nashville Public Schools to a student growth level of 5, indicating more than two years of academic growth.

- [Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School - 2017 Community School Awardee](#)

### **P.S./M.S. 188 The Island School (New York, NY)**

P.S./M.S. 188 The Island School is located on Manhattan's Lower East Side and serves 451 students, most of whom qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and live in public housing or homeless shelters. P.S./M.S. 188 partners focus on trauma-informed practices and provide case management, legal services, employment services, and financial and nutrition classes. New York State Standardized English Language Arts/Math test results are meeting state standards scoring a Level 3 over a three-year period. In 2016 the NYC Department of Education recognized this achievement with a rating of excellent in both "Growth on Tests" and "Closing the Achievement Gap".

- [PS 188 The Island School - 2017 Community School Awardee](#)

## 2015 School Award Winners

### **Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove (Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore, MD)**

Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove in Baltimore moved from one of the city's lowest performing high schools to one of Baltimore's top choice high schools between 2011 and 2015. From an early childhood education program for parenting teens to workforce development for community members, a network of over 75 partners customize responses to needs presented by students and families. Students clocked more than 17,000 service learning hours last school year and are credited with stopping the building of a waste incinerator near their campus through community organizing.

### **The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School (Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore, MD)**

The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School in Baltimore has over 95 percent of its students receiving free or reduced lunch. Since becoming a community school in 2011, they have seen their school readiness scores rise. Teachers and staff made over 100 home visits last year and over 200 teachers from Taylor and other Baltimore schools participated in a trauma-informed behavior management skills trainings through the school's partnership with the University of Maryland Baltimore, School of Social Work.

### **John Hancock College Preparatory High School (Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL)**

John Hancock College Preparatory High School in Chicago has increased its social-emotional support for students as well as opportunities for them to exercise leadership skills. It is paying off in the form of higher attendance rates, increasing from 70 percent in 2010 to 90 percent last year, decreased dropout rates, and an increased five-year graduation rate, improving by 20 percent. Hancock has implemented robust mental health supports (with the help of Youth Guidance) to help address some of the major social emotional barriers to learning that their students experience. All their efforts combined has led to a strong school climate and culture.

### **Social Justice Humanitas Academy (Los Angeles Unified School District, San Fernando, CA)**

Social Justice Humanitas Academy in Los Angeles has raised its graduation rate from 83 to 93.9% in the last year and its suspension rate remains at only .2% of students in the last two years thanks to its model practices around restorative justice, interdisciplinary teaching, relevant curriculum, and relationship building. Students are supported by Individualized Pupil Education Plans (IPEP) which determine how teachers and partners involved in the community school can best help struggling students and reflect the close relationships between students and teachers. By graduation day, 99% of the Class of 2014 had enrolled in college.

### **Wolfe Street Academy (Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore, MD)**

Wolfe Street Academy in Baltimore has moved from the 77th to the 2nd highest performing elementary school in Baltimore since adopting the community schools strategy nine years ago. Because of the strategy, students have greater access to after-school learning opportunities through ExpandedED, student mobility has decreased from 46.6-8.8% in eight years, and average daily attendance is 96%.

## 2013 School Award Winners

### **Harmon Johnson Elementary School (Twin Rivers Unified School District, Sacramento, CA)**

Harmon Johnson, a school with a 98% poverty rate and 70% English Language Learners, had the highest 3-year growth on California's Academic Performance Index and one of the highest attendance rates of any school in its district. Parent volunteerism has increased by 500% in the past seven years and their engagement has made the school safer and improved its climate. Additionally, parents led the school district to invest an additional \$1.4 million in the school instead of closing it as originally planned. The school now features widely-used health, mental health, and dental services. Parent activism has also led the city to shut down a hazardous adjacent housing complex and create safer routes to the school. Harmon Johnson educators worked with Vulcan Materials Company, University of Pacific, Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, and many others to attain these goals.

- [Watch video of Harmon Elementary receiving their National Award. \(13:20\)](#)

### **Hillcrest Elementary School (San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco, CA)**

Hillcrest, which has a nearly 100% minority student population, saw an 11% increase in California Standardized Test scores across all grades from 2010 to 2012. Behavior, discipline, and fighting have decreased significantly. Ninety percent of Hillcrest teachers reported feeling that nearly all of the students are well behaved, only 20% believed that to be the case when they first started teaching at the school. Parent participation in teacher conferences has increased by 40% and a parent-run food bank serves nearly 80 families a week. Nearly half of Hillcrest students participate in after-school or summer school programs. The school has achieved these results by leveraging more than \$1.3 million through partnerships and grants, accounting for 30% of its operating revenue.

- [Watch video of Hillcrest Elementary receiving their National Award. \(8:43\)](#)

### **Roosevelt Elementary School (Allentown School District, Allentown, PA)**

Part of the COMPASS Community School Initiative (Community Partners for Student Success), led by the United Way of Greater Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania, Roosevelt received the Academic Achievement Award for Adequate Yearly Progress from the state of Pennsylvania for three consecutive years (2009-2011). The percentage of students scoring advanced and proficient in reading increased by 19% from 2006 to 2011 and by 13% on math assessments. Parent volunteerism and participation is on the rise, more than two-dozen community members attend adult English classes, and more than half of its students participate in before, after, or summer school activities run by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Allentown and other community partners. The Boys and Girls Club coordinates other opportunities for students and their families at the school, and works closely with the school's corporate partners, Air Products.

- [Watch video of Roosevelt Elementary receiving their National Award. \(15:18\)](#)

### **2011 School Award Winners**

#### **Roy Clark Elementary, Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Roy Clark Elementary is leveraging resources from 30 partners to support their students, reaching out purposefully to families through home visits, offering free medical services, and academic enrichment. From 2008-2011, Roy Clark students Increased overall Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) scores from 799 to 1217 (max score=1500) for subgroup encompassing all students in both reading and math, and 100% of their families participated in parent teachers conferences, which is up from 68%. Read the press coverage of this awardee here and a press release from the office of Oklahoma Senator Inhofe here.

#### **Ethel Taylor Academy, Cincinnati, Ohio**

Ethel Taylor Academy has seen a 42.4% increase in the number of students scoring "Proficient" or higher on the Ohio Achievement Assessments. Because the school has made it a priority to identify subject areas where there are deficiencies, and establish partnerships and allocate resources to meet these needs. The school's four focus areas: academics, parental involvement, community engagement, and health and wellness, have all shown great improvements since implementing their community schools strategy.

#### **Glencliff High School, Nashville, Tennessee**

Glencliff High School in addition to providing supports and services before, during, and after the school day Glencliff is implementing career academies in partnership with the business community works with community partners to meet many urgent student and family needs, including flooding or unexpected refugee resettlement in the community. Glencliff High School boast students from 42 countries and a graduation rate that rose from 66.4% to 81.2% from 2007-2011.



## 2007 School Award Winners

### **Carlin Springs Elementary School, Arlington, VA**

Imagine a school where teachers and parents work together to help children learn and develop; a place where local arts groups, businesses, faith-based organizations and county services all come together to improve the lives of young people and their families. At Carlin Springs Elementary School, in Arlington, VA, students are thriving because the school, county and the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families have come together to create a place that does all of this and more.

### **Fair Street Elementary School, Gainesville, GA**

As long as Fair Street Elementary School has been around, it has been the center of its community. When it was founded in 1937, the school was the only one to serve northeast Georgia's African America children before segregation. It was the heart of the community, holding community meetings, and social and athletic activities. While the Gainesville population has become more diverse over the years, Fair Street has held its place as the heart of its community.

### **Sayre High School, Philadelphia, PA**

What do college students, an Ivy League university, an urban health crisis and teenagers living in poverty all have in common? Too many times, the answer is "not a thing" but at Sayre High School in West Philadelphia connections are being made that could very well save lives.

## 2006 School Award Winners

### **George SUN Community School, Portland, OR**

George SUN Community School builds students' confidence and promotes academic success through strong and lasting partnerships between the school, families, the school district, the county and community agencies. Before George was a community school, its students faced obstacles that some found insurmountable. Today, students have been given another option--a different place to go. The school's climate has changed and evolved into a caring community for students.

### **George Washington Community School, Indianapolis, IN**

George Washington Community School is a proud learning community whose mission is to remove barriers to student academic success by engaging community partners. Nearly six years after reopening as a community school, standardized test scores have risen by an annual average of 10 to 15 percentage points and sophomores, tested for the first time in 2003, outscored all of the district's traditional high schools. According to District Board Commissioner Clark Campbell, "student success at Washington is nothing short of a miracle, directly reflecting its intensive community-driven spirit."

**Stevenson-YMCA Community School, Long Beach, CA**

Stevenson provides high quality and integrated out-of-school programming for children and families and works to develop grass-roots community leaders with the skills to reduce barriers to positive child, family, and school functioning. The school and the community thrive on a mutually beneficial relationship. When the school needs something, the community responds. But perhaps just as importantly, the community sees the school as a resource.

# Neighborhood Community School Award Winners

## 2017 Neighborhood Community School Award Winners

### **Enlace Chicago (Chicago, IL)**

Enlace Chicago is a community development organization that gives children and youth safe places to play and learn. Enlace leads eight community schools in a predominantly immigrant, low-income neighborhood on the city's west side. Enlace is responsible for organizing a 19-day hunger strike, which led to the construction of a multiplex of four individual high schools in the neighborhood. Enlace's partnerships provide each school with roughly \$100,000 worth of programs and services. The organization's emphasis on collecting and using data to meet students' and families' needs further strengthens its ability to drive positive changes in their community.

- [Watch a video on Enlace Chicago.](#)