

Hartford Board of Education Policy on Community Schools

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide a basic framework to support the development and implementation of community schools in the City of Hartford. Community Schools in Hartford are a joint effort among the City of Hartford, Hartford Public Schools and community resources, including non-profit organizations, private philanthropy and the business community. Through joint planning, careful implementation and ongoing assessment, these partners will engage community resources to offer a range of programming and services that support the success of students and their families.

Community schools will focus on the whole child, addressing the academic, physical, social and emotional needs of students and fostering the active involvement of their families. Although the specific services, supports and opportunities available at individual community schools will vary, depending on local needs and resources, the following components must be included in the basic framework:

Public-Private Partnership - The school shall have a partnership with a community-based organization that acts as a lead partner in the coordination and delivery of services.

Community School Coordinator – The lead agency will have a full-time community school coordinator or its equivalent, who will work with school staff to develop a comprehensive approach for community school services, aligning all school-sponsored and funded programs.

Services – The lead agency shall be responsible for the delivery of after-school and extended-year programming, and support programming that is fully integrated into one coherent delivery model in alignment with the academic needs of the school and in compliance with the District's Partnership Policy. Knowing that community schools vary in the type of services offered, lead agencies may also engage in the delivery of family and community engagement services, family support, early childhood education and community development.

Evaluation – In partnership with the Principal, School Governance Council, and partnering organizations, the Director of Strategic Partnerships will be responsible for creating a clearly developed evaluative component approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent (or his designee) will provide the Board of Education with a status report on each community school that includes, but may not be limited to an evaluation rubric, data, implementation information, development plans, and the development of new community schools by April 30, 2009 and thereafter according to a schedule mutually agreed to by the Superintendent and the Board.