

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Las Cruces Public Schools - Las Cruces, New Mexico

## *Resolution*

**“A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO”**

**WHEREAS**, the Las Cruces School District is committed to bringing the assets of the Las Cruces community, city agencies and non-profits to bear in the creation and support of Community Schools that build Partnerships to expand opportunities and lower barriers to learning that impede academic achievement of our children; and

**WHEREAS**, when coupled with a high-quality core instructional program, Community Schools are a vehicle for school transformation that can help close the persistent and destructive opportunity gaps in our schools and reverse the growing inequality in our society; and

**WHEREAS**, the Las Cruces Public Schools definition of a Community School is:

A place and a set of strategic partnerships amongst the school and other community resources that promote student achievement, positive conditions for learning, and the well-being of families and communities;

Maintains a core focus on children, while recognizing that children grow up in families and that families are integral parts of communities;

Builds an integrated strategy that enhances academics and student well-being through enrichment, health and social supports, family engagement, and youth and community development;

Is anchored by the work of a full-time Community School Coordinator and expanded hours; and

Provides a base for parent and community advocacy on behalf of their children, school, and community; and

**WHEREAS**, this integrated strategy will lead to student success, strong families and healthy communities

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, although the design of each Community School must be tailored to the specific needs and assets of its children, families and communities, every Community School should include the following:

School leadership that is committed to the Community School model: to seeing it as a strategy, parallel to the school's instructional program, including the Community School Coordinator as integral to its Leadership Team;

A School Family Council that includes parents, community partners, school staff and youth in substantively and regular advising the Principal and school leadership team about all school matters that impact the well-being of the school's children, including but not limited to: the school's non-academic program components and the use of the school building beyond regular school hours;

A full-time Community School Coordinator who partners with the Principal and serves as an essential member of the school's Leadership Team and whose role it is to develop, coordinate, integrate and align programs and partnerships that serve students, families, and the community;

A Lead Partner community-based organization and other partners that are deeply invested in improving student outcomes and integrated into decision-making, coordination and implementation of the Community School programs;

A services, supports, and advocacy program informed by a comprehensive needs and assets assessment in the school and in the community. Outcomes, strategies, location of responsibility, and timelines regarding accomplishments shall be reflected in a three-year, annually updated, rolling Strategic Action Plan.

The services, supports and advocacy program shall include: a) an afterschool program for a significant number of the students, including those most in need such as those students whose history includes chronic absenteeism, and b) an evidence-based systematic school climate and safety program such as Restorative Practices and such others that respond to the identified needs of children, families, and the community;

Ongoing professional development for school leadership, all staff, parents, and partners designed to improve the outcomes for the Community Schools Strategic Action Plan that include a positive and supportive school climate, effective partnerships, and transformative parent and community engagement;

Dedicated space in the school for the Community School Coordinator, partners, and parents;

Systems accessible to the Community School Coordinator to collect, analyze, and respond to real-time data on student and school indicators such as attendance, achievement, and program participation, as well as workflows for scheduling, programming, and other essential functions that support student success;

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Community School Strategy shall be part of the routine assessment of the school's effectiveness as a whole.

**ADOPTED** and signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016.

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*Maria A. Flores, President*

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*Chuck Davis, Vice President*

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*Barbara Hall, Secretary*

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*Maury Castro, Member*

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*Ed Frank, Member*