Community Schools Research Practice Network Webinar Series

Lifting Up Community Schools' COVID-19 Responses Through Research

Tuesday, September, 3:00 – 4:00 PM Eastern Time

IEL CCS RPN Research Agenda

2 Elevating Voices into Research

1 Measuring Outcomes

Community Schools Research and Impact

Major Themes

3 Translating Research into Practice

5 Collaborative Leadership and Relational Trust

6 Defining and Supporting Roles

7 Racial Equity and Social Justice

4 Defining and Adapting the Community School Model

Further Research and Study of Community Schools

Major Themes

8 Organizing

11 Teaching and Learning

10 COVID-19 Impact

9 Sustainability

[CCS RPN Website](#)

Institute for Educational Leadership
Innovation. Equity. Leadership.

COALITION FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

COVID-19 Impact

From our research agenda:

"There is little doubt that the COVID pandemic will continue to have a significant impact on the ways in which community schools are implemented. Research is needed to document the role of community schools during the pandemic period, including the ways in which coordinators' efforts have supported families' and community members' needs with food and housing insecurity as well as technology needs. There is a need to gather evidence for the hypothesis that community schools are particularly well-positioned to respond to crises like the pandemic. Moreover, we need exploratory studies that may be able to show how community schools, and their unique design, maybe a more functional model of schooling in a post-COVID environment."

Institute for
Educational
Leadership
Innovation. Equity. Leadership.

IEL CCS RPN Co-Chairs

Dave Greenberg (Deep-dive Conversation Facilitator)
CCS RPN Practitioner Co-Chair;
Executive Director, NEA-NM Center
for Community Schools

Dr. Jessica Shiller
CCS RPN Researcher Co-Chair;
Associate Professor, Towson
University

Moderator & Speakers

Moderator:

Jessica Shiller, IEL Coalition for Community Schools Research Practice Network Researcher Co-Chair, Associate Professor, Towson University

Speakers:

Laura Elliot, Senior Director of Community Schools and Network Development, United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County

Walter Rodriguez, Program Supervisor for SUN Community Schools in Multnomah County

United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County, NC

Coalition for Community Schools

Research and Practice Network

9.28.21

100%
LOCAL
est. 1921

THE NEXT 100

United Way of Asheville
and Buncombe County

Landscape

- Western North Carolina

- Southern Appalachians

- Urban, suburban, rural school districts

- 30,000 students

- 55% free and reduced lunch rate

- 20% child poverty rate

- Opportunity/achievement gaps

Backbone Function

UWABC serves the **backbone function** of
Community Schools and the **United for Youth Network.**

In this system-level role, UWABC keeps the goal of this community-wide initiative clear, supports momentum and growth, connects and aligns people and practices, and actively engages the communities we are working alongside, to collectively elevate shared learning and success.

➢ Co-create and guide vision and strategy

➢ Support aligned activities

➢ Establish shared measurement and facilitate quality improvement practices

➢ Build public will

➢ Advance policy

➢ Volunteer Engagement

100% LOCAL est. 1921

THE NEXT 100

United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County

United for Youth Network

United for Youth is a multigenerational, cross-sector, cradle to career partnership built on the foundational principle that **"Equity and Educational Excellence are Inseparable."**

Our Vision: ALL children and youth learn, grow and thrive in a vibrant, healthy and connected community.

Our Mission: To actively identify and remove barriers to opportunity and co-create solutions that support student success.

Our Goal: By 2035, ALL Asheville City and Buncombe County students graduate from high school ready and fully prepared to pursue their goals and dreams.
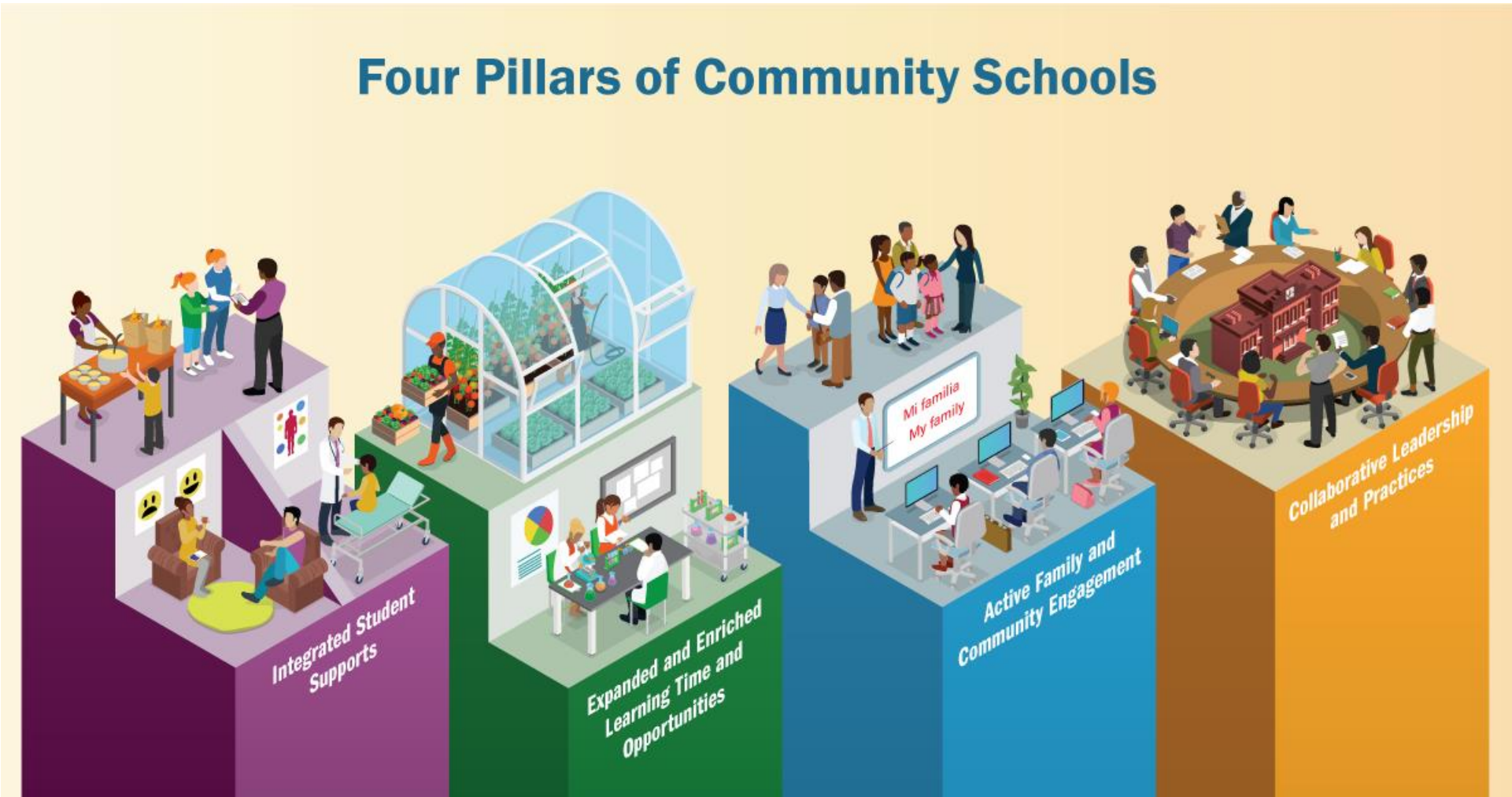
Bold Community Goal
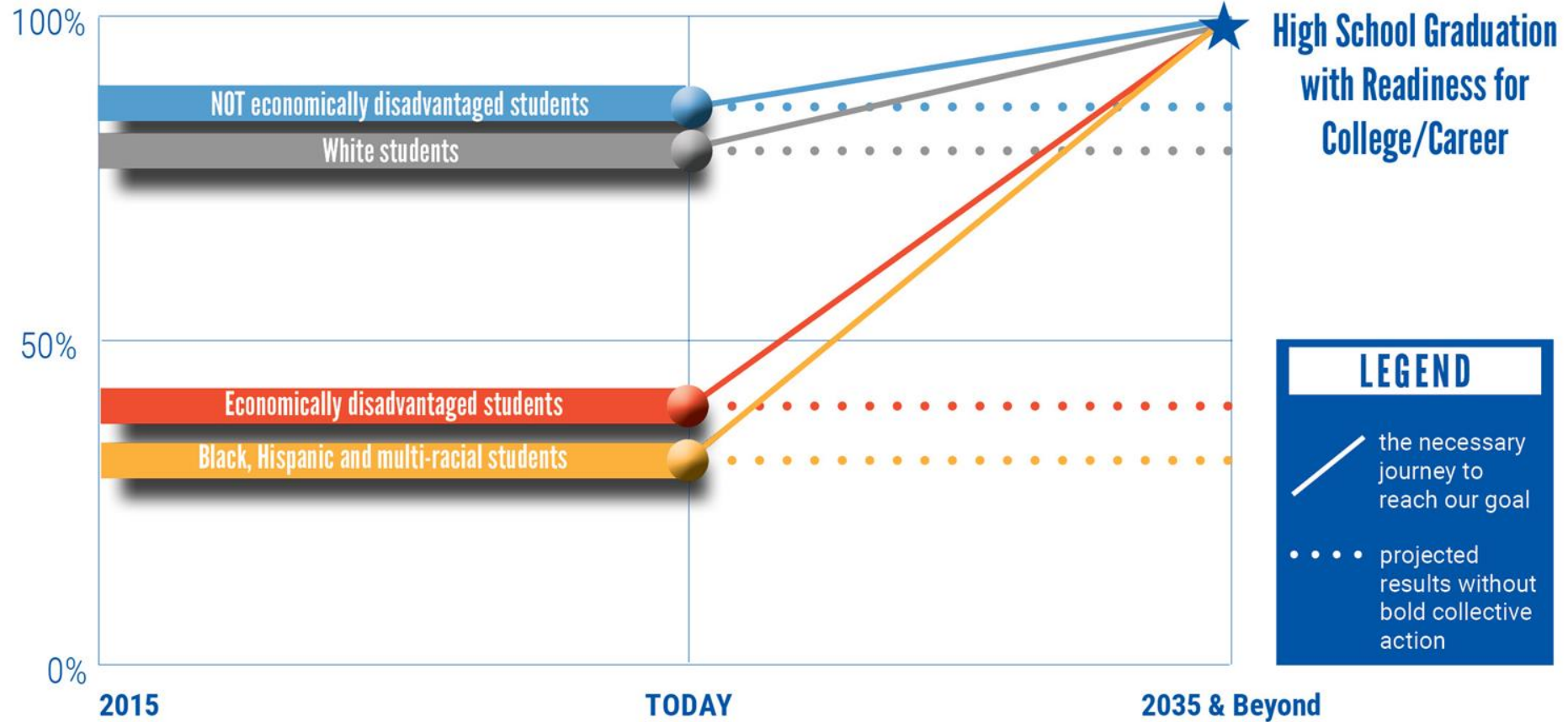
Community Schools

- 2015

- 7 schools (6 middle, 1 high)

- Early Warning & Response System

- Homework Diners

- Restorative Practices

- School-based Health Clinics

- "Hubs of Service" contracts

Pandemic Response

Four Pillars of Community Schools

Network Calls

- Weekly

- School and community partner updates

- Shared resources and problem-solving doc

- Student voice and leadership

- Looking ahead

Restorative Practices

- Weekly

- Connection

- Relationship-building

- Grounding

- Practice

How do we measure this?

- Structure

- Inclusion

- Impact

- Connection

How are we keeping equity at the center?

- Every team and committee

- Length of involvement

- Frequency of participation

- Role

- Race/ethnicity

- Primary language

- Age

100%
LOCAL
est. 1921

THE NEXT 100

United Way of Asheville
and Buncombe County

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion within organization type/size

- Grassroots

- Small

- Medium

- Large

- BIPOC led

- Anchor Institution

We are collecting sector ie. education, health, government, business, faith-based, etc.

United Way of Asheville
and Buncombe County

- Engaging the Network in the data collected and continuous quality improvement efforts

Schools Uniting Neighborhoods

- Contract Manager
- Braided funding from County, City, School Districts, and others
- 7 community based organizations
- 6 school districts
- 92 schools

Responding to Community Need

- **Extended Spring Break**
- **Technology Access**
- **Wellness Checks**
- **Distributing Information**
- **Food Distribution**
- **Activity Packages**
- **Porch Visits**

Long term distance learning

- **Family support teams**
- **Technology supports**
- **Family basic needs**
- **Program funds were flexible to use for gift cards to families**
- **CARES funds were used to distribute over a $1 million for client assistance**
- **City of Portland distributed gift cards at food pantry sites**

Return to in person

- **In Hybrid family basic needs prioritized**
- **Fall full day**
- **SUN Coordinators provide enrichment**
  - **Funding for Family Resource Navigators**
  - **$3 Million for Client Assistance through ARP**
- **Return to data entering system for activities**

Data Collection

- Only set up for recording attendance to activities
- Stopped recording information from data tracking system
- Started collecting monthly google forms
- Provided limited information
  - No tracking of families
  - Folks shared most requested support
- Fall 2021 return to pre COVID tracking

Please review previous webinar and session recordings on [CCS RPN Webpage](https://www.communityschools.org/link/join-a-network/research-practice-network/)

https://www.communityschools.org/link/join-a-network/research-practice-network/

IEL Institute for Educational Leadership

Innovation. Equity. Leadership.

Thank You!