Community Schools Research Practice Network Webinar Series

Sustaining Community Schools

Thursday, December 9, 3:00 – 4:00 PM Eastern Time
From our research agenda:

“Sustainability is an issue for all school reform initiatives. Sustaining community schools is no different. Community schools require additional funding to support the work of the coordinator as well as, but not limited to, special programming that undergirds the work of the community school. There is a need to delineate the specific aspects of community schools which need sustainable funding on top of what maintains traditional schooling. There is also a continued need to demonstrate the value of community schools, both in terms of economic cost-benefit analysis as well as their impact on other indicators like teacher and principal stability and job satisfaction, the ability to attract a diverse pool of teachers and principals, and the contribution to supporting community and family needs which in turn create the conditions to support student learning.”
IEL CCS RPN Co-Chairs

**Dave Greenberg**  
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:

Dave Greenberg, CCS RPN Practitioner Co-Chair; Executive Director, NEA-NM Center for Community Schools

Speakers:

Tauheedah Jackson, Director of Place Based Strategy & Community School Initiatives, IEL

Jim Grim, Director of University/Community School Partnerships, IUPUI

Carol Paine-McGovern, Executive Director, Kent School Services Network
The Coalition for Community Schools

Tauheedah Jackson,
Director of Place Based Strategy &
Community School Initiatives,
IEL
The Coalition for Community Schools

- Since 1998, the Coalition has prepared, supported and mobilized leaders, at all levels, to build and sustain Community Schools nation-wide.

- The Coalition is an alliance of local, state and national partners. Trusting relationships are built through leadership networks and engagement in local communities.

- Our Goal: 25,000 Community Schools by 2025
Effective Community Schools create inclusive environments for all students, families, and communities to have equitable access and opportunity.
Why Community Schools?

SNAPSHOT
ROI OF A COORDINATOR

ROI = \frac{\$1,202,736 - \$148,258}{\$148,258} \times 100 = 711%

Resulting in each $1 invested in the coordinator returning approximately $7.11 net benefits.

Measuring Social Return on Investment for Community Schools

A Case Study

Community Schools as an Effective School Improvement Strategy
A Review of the Evidence

Anna Maier, Julia Daniel, and Jeannie Oakes

Abstract
Increasing economic inequality and residential segregation have triggered a resurgence of interest in community schools—a century-old approach to making schools places where children can learn and thrive, even in under-resourced and underserved neighborhoods. Community

IEL Institute for Educational Leadership
Innovation. Equity. Leadership.
An Equity-driven, Whole-child, Research-based Strategy

Efficient and Effective Service Delivery Through a Coordinating Infrastructure

Leveraging Funds Through a Braided and Blended Funding Approach

Integration and Alignment

Nimble and Responsive in Real Time
Sustainability: Braiding & Blending Funding

- School District Funding
- State Funding
- Federal Funding (ESSR, ARP, Title I, Title IV etc.)
  - Full-service Community Schools
  - 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Corporations
- Foundations (community & national)
- local, state, and federal grants
- Other
Sustainability: Policies and Practices

- State Legislation
- Local School Board Policy
- Memorandums of Understanding
- Letters of Agreement
Building and Sustaining Support

- PREPARE
- SUPPORT
- MOBILIZE
KEEPING OUR WORK GOING

Two main fronts:

- Community School Initiatives
- Coordinator Positions
FOCUS ON RESOURCES RATHER THAN MONEY

- What do we really need?
- Who can continue to provide it?
- What is the value & impact?
FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Build a Sustainable Model** – Consistency of care
- **Develop Vision & Results-Based Impact**
- **Create Strategic Resource Plan** – Partnership inventory & value notation imperative
- **Efficiency & Leveraged Otherwise-Fragmented Resources**
- **Coordination is Heart of the Matter & Building Key Relationships**
SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES – NATIONAL CENTER

- Shared Vision
- Results Orientation – logic model/impact
- Strategic Resource Acquisition
- Key Champions
- Wide Community Support
- Adaptability to Changing Conditions
- Internal Strengths
- Clear Sustainability Plan
CLEAR SUSTAINABLE PLAN—WITH PARTNERS

- Map Current Services & Resources
- Determine Continued Resources Needed
- Identify Gaps
- Analyze Range of Resource Sources
- Designate Steps to Achievement
FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

- 21st Century Learning Center Dollars
- Title (I, III, IV) & APR Funding
- Full-Service Community School Grants
- United Ways
- Local Community Foundations
- Alumni & Generous Friends
FSCS PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

- **Focus:** a five-year capacity-building project to embed cradle-to-college & careers community schools strategy in your school community(ies) – begin collaboration now

- **Track individual** student, family member (parents), and community member names who receive support services – Excel spreadsheet may work fine

- Once strategies are in place, ongoing Coordination funding is crucial

- **Communicate, promote, advocate, market** services, outcomes & transformations

- **Review assets and needs assessment data** -- Start drafting & securing partnership MOUs now (who’s doing what, when, with whom)

- **Keep in mind:**
  - **Build in TA & PD & evaluation** services – provide applicants desired language
  - Your application might get funded unexpectedly before the next RFP round
  - You now have a road map for your Community School growth strategy – convince local providers, funders, etc. to support the initiative (adapt what United Ways, community foundations, corporations & districts do across the country)
Kent School Services Network

Stages of Sustainability
Exploring

- Community-led exploration leading to a 3-year pilot
- Existing resources and county systems—Kent DHHS—intentional partner schools
- Philanthropic funded
- Evaluation
- Strategic look at braiding and blending of future resources for sustainability and growth
Emerging

- Results of 3-year pilot
- Systemic look at funding opportunities for staffing and management
- Drawing on existing resources and a broad base of community supports
- Framework with a focus on sustainability and scale
- Community strengths and challenges
Maturing

- Sustainability for scale with intentionality
- Accountability and results – schools, partners, funders
- Increased partnerships
- Policy shifts – Kent DHHS funding spinoff and statewide focus
- Internal systems and 501(c)3
- Sustainability more than funding
Excelling

• Key system funders’ commitment with strategies for financial and human sustainability
• Shifting mental health non-billable funding from KSSN to schools and community mental health systems partners
• Results and community pillars focus
• Strategic planning and anti-racism framework
• Elevating voices of students and families in decision making
Please review previous webinar and session recordings on **CCS RPN Webpage**

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

Please fill out the post-webinar feedback form!