

Community Schools Fundamentals conference

Technical Assistance Guide

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United Way of the Bay Area



National Center

for

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



The Children's Aid Society

Community Schools Fundamentals: Bay Area

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Center for Healthy Schools and Communities, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

Organization description: Since 1996, the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC), Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, has worked to improve health and education outcomes for Alameda County youth by partnering with schools, school districts, service providers, policymakers, youth, and families to build school-based and school-linked health and wellness programs. CHSC has adopted a community school framework as a comprehensive approach to transform schools into centers of community.
<http://healthyschoolsandcommunities.org>

How they work with community schools: CHSC provides capacity building for community school partnerships, including an annual conference, collaborative leadership development, training series, communities of practice, toolkits, and extensive consultation and coaching. The CHSC also convenes and supports collaborative, cross-sector initiatives, including community school initiatives in Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, San Leandro, and Union City. CHSC develops, convenes, supports, evaluate, and provides staff and/or contracts to run 26 School Health Centers, school-based behavioral health services at over 160 schools, and behavioral health consultants in seven school districts. They also support, evaluate, and manage the funding for 21 youth and family opportunity projects.

Success Stories: CHSC has leveraged an incredible \$80+ million in public, non-profit, and private funds on the county's \$16 million annual investment in Healthy Schools and Communities strategies. The CHSC has created critically needed access to physical and behavioral health services for youth in low opportunity communities, supporting over 50,000 youth visits to health center each year, strengthening over 160 schools' ability to support students' social-emotional wellbeing, and cultivated youth leadership and action through innovative programs and centers.

The Center for Strategic Community Innovation

Organization description: The Center for Strategic Community Innovation (CSCi), is a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, and the non-profit arm of Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates. CSCi supports school districts and schools, city, county, community leaders and community based organizations to implement a Full Service Community Schools framework – thereby infusing the district and its schools with a wide range of supports, services, and opportunities that are aligned with the needs of the students, their families and the resources within the community. CSCi uses a collective impact approach to build community and school capacity to improve equity and justice in our society. High quality education, supported by comprehensive and coordinated services, is a key factor in moving neighborhoods from persistent poverty to vital, healthy and economically sustainable communities. <http://cscinnovation.org>

How they work with community schools: CSCi created and operates the Bay Area Community Schools Network which offers annual forums, workshops, planning and working sessions, technical assistance and tools for the development of full service community schools. A strong component of all the activities is the intentional networking opportunities for members that provide access to new connections for community school enhancements. CSCi, in partnership with Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates, builds capacity through thoughtful planning, guidance, and support for communities to create and scale up a full service community schools approach, based on their unique strengths, needs, existing programs, and partnerships. CSCi provides technical assistance on all elements of a community schools approach—such as collaboration and partnerships, governance, infrastructure, evaluation and all the programmatic components of full service community schools.

Success Story: CSCI helped to draft and promote formal full service community schools resolutions for adoption by Boards of Education at six Bay Area school districts and two City Councils, is assisting five school districts in the Bay Area to plan and implement community schools, and is supporting several schools to build their community school.

Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates

Organization description: Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates (HTA) is an experienced consulting company that has worked with Healthy Start and full service community schools programs for almost two decades. HTA provides planning, grant writing, evaluation, technical assistance, and training services to a wide array of district, city, county, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations locally, regionally and nationally. HTA's mission is to support and empower organizations to create a more healthy, educated and just society. <http://www.htaconsulting.com>

How they work with community schools: In partnership with CSCI, through its Place Based Initiative, HTA assists neighborhoods, school districts and schools, communities, community based organizations, city and county agencies, and collaboratives to plan and sustain a full service community schools approach. HTA is deeply involved in place-based efforts through the federal Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative – including Promise Neighborhoods, Promise Zones and Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation, among others.

Success Story: HTA planned and wrote the Race to the Top District grant application for New Haven Unified School District, as well as the Hayward Promise Neighborhood implementation grant, both which included full service community schools as a key ingredient. HTA continues its involvement as the external evaluator of the Promise Neighborhoods effort in Hayward.

The John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities

Organization description: The John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities at the Stanford Graduate School of Education partners with communities to develop leadership, conduct research, and effect change to improve the lives of youth. Using a comprehensive tri-level framework in research, the center focuses on the interactions among the embedded individual (youth/student), setting (school, classroom, program), and system (district, public agency, community) levels, and the ways that changes at one level directly connect to the other levels. Work with partners routinely involves capacity building to develop and expand their skills and knowledge about researchable questions, data collection and interpretation, and valid and reliable indicators of positive youth development that will result in actionable findings to improve outcomes for youth. Partners include K-12 and community schools, community colleges, community-based organizations and health care providers, among others. <http://jgc.stanford.edu>

How they work with community schools: As a community-facing university research center, the Gardner Center engages with community schools partners in rigorous, multi-method research including the use of the Youth Data Archive—an integrated, student-level longitudinal data system. The Gardner Center pursues studies on critical topics, such as family engagement and student motivation, sharing findings iteratively throughout the process and building partners' capacity to use data to reflect on practice and policy. The ability to track students' participation over time and across programs, through the Youth Data Archive, enables the partnership to examine the combined efficacy of interventions, supports, and strategies. The Gardner Center seeks to advance knowledge about community schools, including contributing to the academic literature, participating in the national discourse through panels and conferences, and creating tools with organizations such as the Coalition for Community Schools.

Success Story: The Gardner Center's productive and long-term relationship with the Redwood City School District has increased the district's capacity to consistently use data to examine questions of practice and policy. The district has also used the findings to guide resource allocation and raise funds. The visibility of this partnership has afforded the Gardner Center opportunities to work with other districts and community school organizations across

the state and nationally. The center has also helped build the field of knowledge by linking participation in community school programs and strategies to educational outcomes.

Partnership for Children and Youth

Organization description: In 1997, a group of concerned government, philanthropy and business leaders decided to do something about the persistent poverty and barriers to success faced by children and youth in Bay Area communities. Their extensive analysis found that low income communities were vastly underutilizing public funding streams for critical support programs for children and youth. The Partnership for Children & Youth (PCY) was created to connect schools and their community partners in these underserved communities with available public and private resources, and to improve the effectiveness of funding streams and services for low income children. <http://partnerforchildren.org>

How they work with community schools: PCY's work in community schools is focused on building a state-level policy framework as well as state and local level champions to support community school development on the local level. For the past year, PCY has been staffing a learning network of superintendents who share best practices and inform policy development. PCY aims to serve as a bridge between on-the-ground needs and the work of policy makers at the local, state and federal levels, advocating for policies that enable schools and their community partners to improve services provided to students and their families.

Success Story: PCY was instrumental (working closely with Fight Crime Invest in Kids – California) in getting 'school climate' included on the list of the state's priority areas in the Local Control Funding Formula legislation.

San Francisco Foundation

Organization description: The San Francisco Foundation (TSFF) is an incubator for community investment, original ideas, and passionate leadership. Since 1948, TSFF has been bringing together networks of philanthropists and civic leaders to support and build on the strengths of the community and make the Bay Area the best place it can be. TSFF is a leading agent of Bay Area philanthropy and ranks among the nation's largest community foundations in grantmaking and assets. Cultivating a family of donors sharing a commitment to the Bay Area, together, TSFF gives millions of dollars a year to foster strong communities, respond to local needs, and elevate public awareness. <http://www.sff.org>

How they work with community schools: TSFF invests in change through education because every child deserves every opportunity to reach his or her potential. When schools are a center of community, we transform the Bay Area's potential in economy, health and a thriving community. Community schools are the bright promise that has the potential to transform public education. The community schools philosophy looks at students within the context of their families and support networks, and ensures that those networks are strong and thriving. By creating local hubs that provide family support and health services in one place, the community schools model has already had an impact on student test scores and graduation rates.

Success Stories: McClymonds High School, West Oakland: TSFF took a chance on this innovative strategy at McClymonds High School in West Oakland. Known for violence, low test scores, and high dropout rates just a few years ago, McClymonds now has one of the highest exit exam pass rates in Oakland Unified School District. TSFF is investing in the opportunity that community schools present to improve learning for all children, to reform education, and to strengthen West Oakland.

The UC Davis CRESS Center: Center for Community School Partnerships

Organization description: The Center for Community School Partnerships (CCSP) is located in the UC Davis School of Education. The School is distinguished in Northern California for its teacher education program, public education policy research, teacher professional development, administrator leadership development, and faculty education research. CCSP has established a deep working knowledge and extensive experience with community school

partnerships over the past two decades. Established in 1992 as the Healthy Start Field Office, CCSP is home to educators and researchers who share a common goal of closing the opportunity gap for children and youth and tackling the effects that the inequalities of race, class, language, and gender can have on student achievement. As the Healthy Start Field Office, CCSP provided technical assistance to the over 800 grantees of the California Healthy Start initiative (which translates into California's version of Community Schools), and helped grantees to establish the collaborative structures and capacity for sustaining educational supports for students.

<http://education.ucdavis.edu/community-school-partnerships>

How they work with community schools: CCSP takes the stance that it is critical to tie core educational goals and issues to strategies for fostering community school partnerships. Due to its experience with applied research and program evaluation, CCSP strives to better understand and moor community schools best practices to school district instructional solutions, interventions and organizational conditions. Education research and policy are tied to data-driven best practices in order to achieve greater coherence between education priorities and that of meeting the social, emotional, health, and safety needs of students. CCSP commands both a deep understanding of California's public education system, and community collaboration stemming from its position at UC Davis coupled with over two decades' experience in supporting community collaborative structures. The center believes in the power of student voice as a fundamental part of our research and transformation planning in full service community schools initiatives, and as such, engages youth in participatory action research and decision-making roles.

Success Story: In 2010, CCSP was commissioned to lead an effort in support of the new Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD) Superintendent's, Dr. Ramona Bishop, vision to launch a district-wide Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) Initiative. Working in partnership, CCSP has coached executive administration and developed a three-year phased "roll-out" to expand FSCS to all 28, K-12 VCUSD schools. Throughout this process CCSP has worked to engage district leaders and community stakeholders in a strategic planning process, facilitated community and student listening sessions, designed the VCUD-FSCS logic model, developed major grant proposals (to date, totaling \$2,175,000.00). Under the FSCS initiative "umbrella," CCSP has worked as the "special projects" backbone organization for implementing the district strategic plan.

United Way of the Bay Area

Organization description: In a region of great resources, 1 in 5 Bay Area residents lives in poverty. United Way of the Bay Area's (UWBA) goal is to cut that number in half by 2020 by harnessing creativity, expertise, and philanthropy. <http://www.uwba.org>

How they work with community schools: UWBA is committed to educating the public about education issues, particularly those that impact kids in poor communities. United Way's work focuses on community schools, a strategy that supports the complex needs of kids and families in poverty, and innovative family economic support in community schools. UWBA grants support schools and districts who seek to start or improve their community school efforts. United Way's Community Schools transform public schools into neighborhood hubs where healthcare, food pantries, after-school programs, family engagement and parent education classes are available directly on school campuses. United Way's education goal is to partner with schools and districts in low-income communities across the Bay Area to transform 200 schools into community hubs by 2020.

Success Story: Marylin Avenue Elementary School, Livermore, CA (K-5): UWBA is a long term funder of Marylin Avenue School, helping to ensure that parents receive basic needs such as medical coverage, housing and food assistance when emergencies arises. As a result, families experience a healthy, inclusive environment which has built trust and engaged more parents in their child's education. Over the past six years, this support has helped the school community achieve some tremendous outcomes, such as a 162 point jump in state API score to 808, and increased student proficiency in English Language Arts from 24% to 52% and Math from 28% to 69%.