

# Community Schools Fundamentals Conference

Site Visit Guide

December 4-5, 2013

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United Way of the Bay Area



**National Center**  
*for*  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

THE  
SAN  
FRANCISCO  
FOUNDATION



**The Children's Aid Society**



## Community Schools Fundamentals: Bay Area

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#### OAKLAND

##### 1. Citizens Coliseum College Prep Academy: 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Citizens Coliseum College Prep Academy (CCPA) opened in the fall of 2006 with a commitment to serve the students of the surrounding community by providing a high-quality secondary school option in the Coliseum neighborhood. CCPA aims to create a college-going culture beginning in middle school that acknowledges the magnitude of the task at hand – CCPA needs a full seven years with students to get them college ready. Over 90% of the student body will be the first in their family to graduate from a four-year college and 94% of students receive free and reduced lunch. CCPA aims to invest, support, and educate the greater community by coupling academics with family support structures.

The school was founded by a design team consisting mostly of parents of current students, seeking to capitalize on their leadership and the values they represent by intimately involving families in the school. The Family Resource Center (FRC), the Havenscourt Health Clinic, and the ELEV8 initiative are the cornerstones of these services, as CCPA seeks to develop and cultivate the strengths of the greater community by offering numerous opportunities for student and parent leadership.

**Why visit this school?** [If you want to see an example of an urban school that has broken the cycle of violence in their neighborhood and excelled in parent involvement to help students succeed, this is the school for you.](#)

##### 2. Life Academy of Health and Bioscience: 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Life Academy of Health and Bioscience is a jewel of the Oakland Unified School District. Working without a large budget, they created a community school model before they knew it was a concept. Founded by parents and teachers with a focus in health careers, this school emphasizes youth leadership, parent involvement and is the only ConnectEd certified Linked Learning School in Northern California.

Established in 2001, Life Academy serves 260 students of diverse backgrounds from grades 6 through 12. Life Academy provides its students with rigorous academic experiences focused on health and bioscience and aims to prepare students to become future health professionals. The academy is committed to providing authentic learning experiences through project-based learning, field trips, and extensive internship programs focused on health and science. Life Academy has the highest University of California and California State University acceptance rate of any high school in Oakland, with students going to schools like Stanford, UC Berkeley, University of San Francisco, UCLA, UC Davis, Smith College and San Francisco State.

**Why visit this school?** If you want to visit a full service community school that started without a massive budget and emphasizes Linked Learning and its connection between academics, college, and careers, this is the school for you.

**3. Oakland High School: 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

Oakland High School is one of the three largest comprehensive high schools in Oakland, with 1,600 students (40% Asian, 35% African American and 20% Latino). 85% of the students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Oakland High's Community School Partners operate out of Shop 55, the school's Wellness Center. Shop 55 was conceived from a two year long planning process involving over 1,000 youth, 150 parents, and the faculty and community partners of Oakland High. Nine years later, Shop 55's mission is to increase the well-being, equity and community spirit of students at Oakland High by connecting students to high quality, culturally competent youth development, mental health and medical services. Shop 55 provides push-in support to classrooms through community building workshops, school climate leadership, and staff wellness activities. Most recently, Shop 55 has created the Public Health Academy, in partnership with Oakland High.

**Why visit this school?** If you want to experience the power of collaboration in a state of the art Wellness Center and learn how different funding streams contributed to its success, this is the school for you.

**4. Urban Promise Academy: Middle School**

Urban Promise Academy (UPA) is a small middle school serving roughly 300 students in the Fruitvale neighborhood of Oakland. Small by design, UPA serves students and their families by preparing a diverse, 6th-8th grade student population for success in college by equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and habits of mind to become self-motivated, competent, responsible community members and lifelong learners. *Please be advised this school visit requires walking a distance of 0.6 miles.*

**Why visit this school?** If you would like to see a middle school that has created a safe environment with high standards for young people to thrive and celebrate their culture, this the school for you

## SAN FRANCISCO

### 1. Buena Vista Horace Mann Community School: K-8<sup>th</sup>

Buena Vista Horace Mann Community School (BVHM) is a K–8th grade elementary school in the Mission District of San Francisco, with a vision to become the premier Two-Way Immersion School in the nation. This community schools strives to be a place where all students are bilingual, multicultural, experience the opportunity to grow into academically successful students with deep social consciousness, and develop flexible minds and bodies.

In addition to being committed to high academic expectations for all students in math, literacy, science, social studies and language development, BVHM is also dedicated to providing students with diverse music, visual arts, dance, physical education, computer technology, library and media and theatrical education. This connects Buena Vista Horace Mann students, and their families, to the rich cultural communities of San Francisco. *Please be advised this school visit requires walking a distance of 0.2 miles.*

**Why visit this school?** *If you want to learn about immersion learning in an environment that emphasizes bilingualism and multiculturalism, this is the school for you.*

### 2. Mission High School: 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Mission High School is located where the neighborhoods of the Mission, Noe Valley, and the Castro meet. Mission High School represents one of the most diverse schools in the district, with a student population of approximately 15% African American, 40% Latino, and 18% Chinese. Additionally, 18% of students are special education, and over 70% of students are low income. 25% of students are new to the country, and represent over 52 countries. 88% of students were accepted into college in 2012, and 72% enrolled in the fall; significantly above the average rates for marginalized groups for both SFUSD and comparable districts nationally.

The guiding pillars of Mission High School are 1) equitable access to academically rigorous advanced coursework, 2) family and community engagement, including over 50 ongoing community partners, and 3) postsecondary preparation. In support of these pillars, the Mission faculty created a working definition of Anti-Racist/Equity Education. Anti-Racist/Equity Teaching promotes respect for diversity and creates a context in which students' experiences can be understood, appreciated, and connected to the curriculum. Work around equity teaching has allowed the school to engage partners, families, students, and staff in honest and powerful conversations around the meaning and practice of social justice and equity. Mission High School believes that all students must have equitable access to resources to provide a level playing field, and that we must consider all facets of identity to ensure a safe, nurturing environment, so all students are prepared with the tools and confidence to succeed after high school. *Please be advised this school visit requires walking a distance of 0.6 miles.*

**Why visit this school?** *If you want to know what it is like to work in a school with high visibility community partnerships, investments, and dedicated commitment to equity teaching, this is the school for you.*

## VALLEJO

### 1. Elsa Widenmann Elementary School

Elsa Widenmann provides multiple programs that serve students and their families, offering 23 different community services on site. The leadership of the school is inclusive with a strong Site Council. The Vallejo Full Service Community Schools Program ensures students have clear pathways from Preschool to College and Career. A village is truly raising each student, with the goal of going to college.

**Why visit this school?** *If you want to tour a suburban community school with many exciting community services and strong leadership that emphasizes the pathway to college, this is the school for you.*

## WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY/SAN PABLO

### 1. Helms Middle School

Helms Middle School is 90% supported by the City of San Pablo to implement the full service community schools model. The City Manager will be your tour guide and you will experience all the wonderful benefits of great investment by the municipality. In November 2011, the City of San Pablo passed a resolution to scale community schools throughout San Pablo. The Community Schools Initiative is aimed at closing the achievement gap to strengthen the abilities of San Pablo students, families and community.

**Why visit this site?** *If you would like to see first-hand what would inspire a municipality to take ownership of community schools, and if see a newly built state of the art community center next door to a thriving school, this is the school for you.*