



## **Why Local Leaders Support Community Schools**

A community school brings together a set of partnerships that helps students overcome the barriers that cause them to lose focus and hope. Their emphasis on caring for and uplifting all of a child's various needs (academics, health, nutritional, psychological, etc.) is what sets these schools apart. These successful outcomes are achieved through the collaboration of several partners and volunteers, from pediatricians and dentists to mentors. By providing these comprehensive services directly on the school campus, community schools strengthen students, support parents and build up neighborhoods.

Community schools recognize that students cannot focus inside the classroom if their basic needs are not being met outside the classroom. Students who are hungry, sick, anxious, or troubled may be too overwhelmed to learn. At the more than 5,000 community schools across the nation, their needs are acknowledged and addressed.

### **Community Schools Represent Local Control**

- Because every school's community is unique, every community school is unique. Community schools are based on the premise that all students no matter their ZIP code deserve a great public school and that those closest to students and their environment are in the best position to make the choices that will ensure success.
- While educators' expertise and experience are valued and respected, all stakeholders are empowered as trusted partners with a voice in the learning community.
- This collaborative approach enlists parents, local leaders and community partners to help to remove barriers, deliver bold solutions, and create opportunity for students, families and neighborhoods.
- Community schools are accountable to, and reflective of, the priorities, values and cultures of the communities they serve. They protect the rights, investments and interests of our communities.

### **Community Schools Transform Lives and Strengthen Communities**

- Community schools fill a gap that traditional schools cannot. They offer community support services such as health care, mental-health counseling, and other support, before, during, and after school and on the weekends.
- Adapting to the needs of the students and families they serve, community schools not only broaden access to basic services and supports, they create opportunity through computer sharing, mentorships, community-centered career pathways and more.
- Community schools generate smart partnerships and educational outcomes that inspire confidence in areas essential to making our neighborhoods viable places to live, learn and work.

## **Community Schools Prepare Today's Students for Tomorrow's Globally-Interdependent World**

- If we're serious about every child's future, let's get serious about doing what works. That means giving students what they need. Community schools offer emotional and physical support services that inspire students' natural curiosity, imagination and love of learning.
- Educators, parents and communities believe a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work. That's why community schools champion smaller class sizes, high-quality teaching, and a well-rounded curriculum over high-stakes testing.
- Community schools tear down learning barriers so students attend class, have better work habits, stronger social skills, and graduate college and career-ready.

*Single schools, entire school districts, cities and counties have embraced the community school concept. Community schools are successful because they deliver real solutions to students in struggling schools. By enlisting community partners, this proven, collaborative model unites and transforms entire communities in the effort to build the schools our students deserve.*