



Center for Strategic Community Innovation

Key Elements of a Full Service Community School

Shared leadership through formal structures at i) the **governance-oversight level** with clear roles and mandates and ii) the **site level** most often between a school Principal and a Community School Director., whereby the Principal focuses on academics, teaching and instruction, and overall school administration while the Community School Director focuses on all non- academic services and community-school partnerships.

Joint responsibility and commitment by all parties and at all levels articulated through clear and transparent formal agreements and commitments. Clear responsibilities of all parties (district, city, county, lead agency, school site, service providers, families, and community) ensures

- Access to services
- Sustainability of services and operations
- Accountability for quality of curricula, teaching/ instruction and the type and quality of services
- Data collection and progress monitoring
- Outcomes for students and families

A clear Vision embraced by all stakeholders

Blended and diverse funding resources wherein multiple stakeholders both contribute and leverage funds.

Alignment of goals and desired results between partners and stakeholders based upon identified needs.

Comprehensive array of services on campus to serve the multiple needs of students and their families. Core services generally include: a rich instructional program and academic supports, after school/extended day/expanded learning that include many enrichment and recreation activities, health, mental health, case management, parent involvement, parent leadership and parent resources.

Other service examples include: gang prevention and intervention, translation banks, basic need banks, service learning, college and career counseling, conflict resolution, adult education and skill development. This requires keeping the school open through the evening.

Integration of services into the school's overall landscape and fabric of daily life. This necessitates the development of a seamless system with:

- A **strong connection and working relationship** between school faculty and staff and service providers focused on the whole child/student success
- A well articulated system for **coordination of all services** both for student success and smooth operations
- Effective formal and informal **communication systems** amongst all academic and service components at the school
- **Optimization of access** to service opportunities for students and their families

Active parent engagement and participation in the school community

Active community connectedness and engagement This includes:

- Effective **communications systems** with the community
- **Community engagement activities** for the purpose of promoting and supporting student and family success
- Recruitment and effective use of **Volunteers**
- **Community wide** celebrations and events
- **Service Learning** for students in the community
- **Internships** for students in the community
- Strategies for **Building Public Support**

Interdisciplinary staff and professional development that focuses on **the whole child** and enables each discipline to learn from other disciplines so as to forge mutual understanding, team work, and a common language.

Data sharing and evaluation amongst teachers, service providers, and community to assess outcomes, make improvements, add needed services, assist with decision making, and so on.