



Bay Area Community Schools Network

The Bay Area Community Schools Network connects the needs of schools, social services, health services, and youth development practitioners, with the momentum of a national movement to increase the capacity of schools, providers, families and communities to help children and youth succeed in school and in life.

The Network was launched in 2007 with the goals to:

- 1 Raise local awareness of and participation in the community school movement
- 2 Strengthen community school oriented programs, organizations and districts to provide comprehensive holistic support and services to children, youth and families
- 3 Build a core network of community school champions and model programs in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to lead locally

A community school is a concept we in California are familiar with as Healthy Start. Community schools act as “hubs,” linking with a wide range of partners to provide the support and opportunities that children, youth and families need to be successful in school and

in life. Like Healthy Start sites, community schools vary, each with their own unique goals and strategies. A community school is a public school that combines the best educational practices with a wide range of vital in-house health and social services to ensure that children are physically, emotionally and socially prepared to learn. Community schools strengthen families and communities so they are better able to support student success. A core characteristic of community schools is the intentional integration of varied supports, services, and opportunities into the daily fabric of the school. Full service community schools address the needs of each and every student through operational collaboration between academic, health and social services, and other supports and opportunities. The goal is to optimize student and family success and create healthy communities.

Network participants engage in self-assessment, planning, skill building and networking, as we build the core of a community school coalition in the Bay Area. Network convenings, workshops and facilitated planning are designed around collaboration, integration and six conditions for learning.

Conditions of Learning

- 1 Early childhood development programs are available to nurture growth and development.
- 2 The school has a core instructional program with qualified teachers, a challenging curricula, and high standards and expectations for students.
- 3 Students are motivated and engaged in learning- both in school and in community settings, during and after school.
- 4 The basic physical, social, mental and emotional health needs of young people and their families are recognized and addressed.
- 5 There is mutual respect and collaboration among families and school staff.
- 6 Community engagement, together with school efforts, promotes a school climate that is safe, supportive and respectful, and connects students to a broader learning community.

Questions of any kind? Please call or email Dina Hatchuel dina@cscinnovation.org or Jamie Harris jamie@cscinnovation.org at the Center for Strategic Community Innovation or phone (510) 697-0002