“Could someone help me with these? I’m late for math class.”
What is a Community School?

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between a school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities.

Coalition for Community Schools
Conventional School

Community School

Children’s Aid Developmental Triangle

Child

Family

Community

CORE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES
Changes over 20+ Years

Where we were then
- Co-location
- Collection of programs
- CBOs as vendors
- Wrap-around services (often around “fixing” kids)
- Program-centered
- Time-limited project
- Innovators developing one or a few schools

Where we are now
- Collective impact
- Whole-school focus
- CBOs as partners
- Integrated services, opportunities and supports
- Child-centered
- Long-term strategy
- Developing systems of community schools
New York
A National Movement

NYS Community Schools Network

The Network advocates to develop, promote, and sustain community schools in collaboration with government, local school districts, and community partners. Through a diverse coalition of community-based agencies, parents, teachers, and statewide advocates, we champion effective community school policies so that children and families can thrive.
Our Three Mantras

• It’s all about relationships
• Everything has to be negotiated – all the time
• For community schools to work, the partners have to have the word “yes” written in their hearts