

National Center
for
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS


Forum on Community Schooling
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Scott Spencer

***“Could someone help me with these?
I’m late for math class.”***

 Children's Aid

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What is a Community School?

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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



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This slide compares two educational models. On the left is a black rotary telephone, labeled "Conventional School". On the right is a tablet computer displaying a grid of icons representing various educational and social services, labeled "Community School". The icons include: Health and Social Support, Engaging Instruction, Expanded Learning Opportunities, Early Childhood Development, Family Engagement, Community Engagement, College and Career, Infrastructure, and Youth Development Activities. The Children's Aid logo is in the bottom left, and the number 5 is in the bottom right.

Conventional School

Community School

Children's Aid

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A National Movement

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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

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New York ~~A National~~ Movement

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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.



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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



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A banner for the National Center for Community Schools. The banner features a colorful geometric logo at the top center, followed by the text "National Center for COMMUNITY SCHOOLS". Below the text is a photograph of a group of diverse students sitting around a table in a classroom, engaged in a reading activity. The background of the banner is decorated with colorful paper cutouts of a tree and other objects.

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