

<http://www.edutopia.org/childrens-aid-society-video>

# Community Schools: A Strategy, Not a Program



Lukas Weinstein  
Director of Special Projects

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## Children's Aid Society



- ◆ **Children's Aid Society**  
Receives 13th Consecutive  
4-Star Rating from Charity  
Navigator



- ◆ **Mission: The Children's Aid Society helps children in poverty to succeed and thrive.**
- ◆ We have been serving children for over 160 years. In 1853, CAS founder, Charles Loring Brace, established the Orphan Train Movement in response to an epidemic of homeless children.

## Children's Aid Society

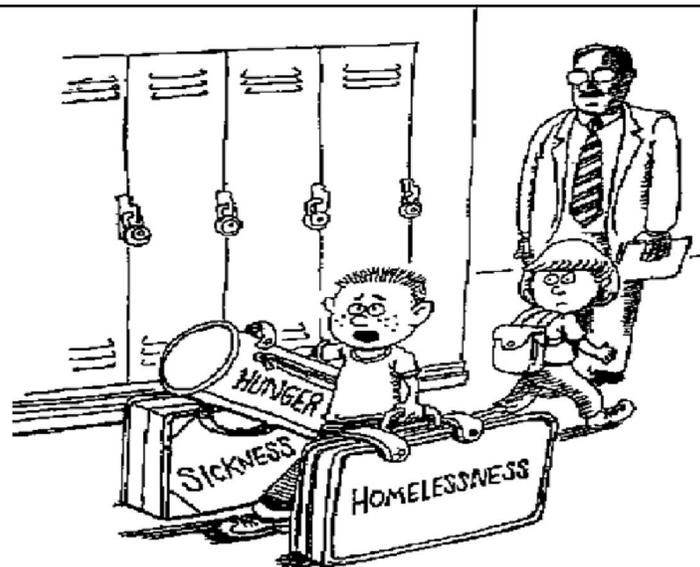


- ◆ Serves New York's neediest children and families at more than 40 locations.
- ◆ A Leader in firsts – all CAS initiatives:
  - first free school lunch program,
  - first industrial school for poor children,
  - first day care program for working mothers and
  - first visiting nurse service
- ◆ Cutting edge of children's services
  - Carrera Adolescent Sexuality and Pregnancy Prevention Program
  - Community School Model
  - Foster Care approach and systems

## CAS Community Schools



- ◆ Partner with the New York City Department of Education since 1992
- ◆ Strategic Opportunity is the Intersection of capacity and need.
- ◆ 16 schools –some have 3 schools in one building (referred to as a “campus model”)
- ◆ 15 public schools, one charter school
- ◆ 2013 NYS Education Commission Report cites as a “Model of Education-Centered Comprehensive Programs”



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

Scott Spencer

# Definitions

## A Strategy for What?



A strategy for organizing the resources of the community around student success...

Pat Harvey, Former Superintendent  
St. Paul Public Schools

## What is a Community School?



A community school is both a **place** and a **set of partnerships** between the 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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## Another Definition...



**A community school is characterized by:**

- ◆ Extended Services
- ◆ Extended Hours
- ◆ Extended Relationships (“swinging door”)

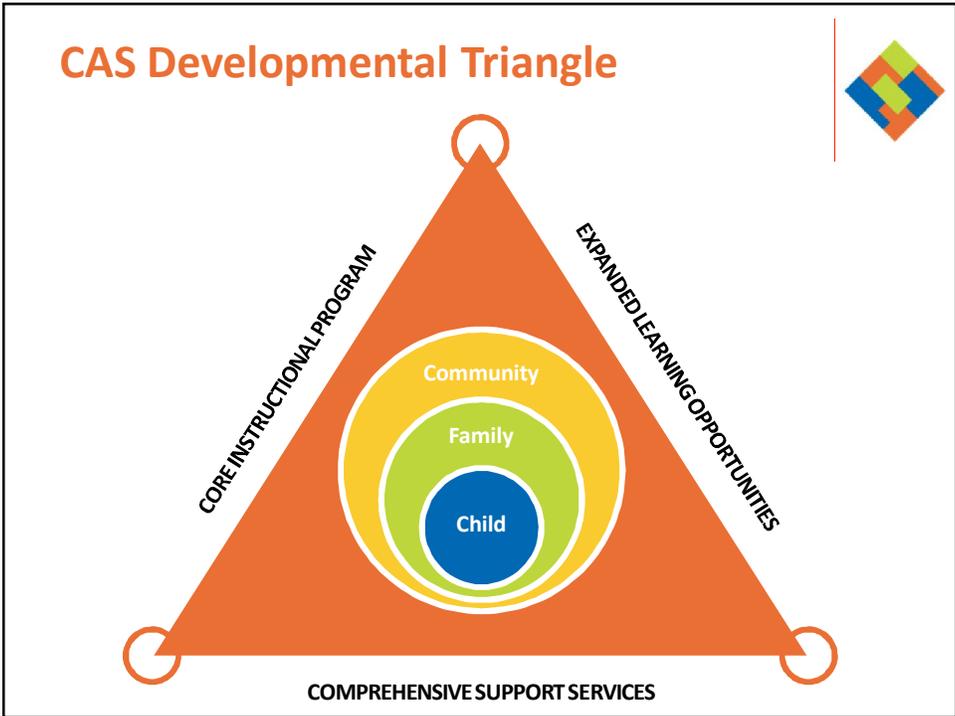


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**Conventional School**

**Community School**



## A Closer Look

*"The active ingredient in the environment that's having an influence on development is the quality of the relationships that children have with the important people in their lives. That's what it's all about".*

Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D.

### Well-known models of Community Schools:



- ◆ Beacons
- ◆ Bridges to Success (United Way )
- ◆ Children's Aid Society Community Schools
- ◆ Communities in Schools
- ◆ Community Learning Centers (Cincinnati, OH)
- ◆ Healthy Start
- ◆ Polk Brothers Full-Service Schools
- ◆ Schools of the 21st Century (Yale University)
- ◆ University Assisted Schools –WEPIC -University of Pennsylvania



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## Underlying Research Base



- ◆ **Making the Most of Non-School Time**
  - Reginald Clark
  - Milbrey McLaughlin
  - Deborah Vandell
- ◆ **Executive Function**
  - Jack Schonkoff
  - Judy Willis
  - Sam Wang
- ◆ **Whole Child Approach/ Developmental Knowledge/**
  - Jacquelynne Eccles
  - James Comer
- ◆ **Parents' Active Role**
  - Epstein (six types)
  - Henderson and Mapp
  - Harvard-FINE network
  - NCPIE
- ◆ **Coordinated Services**
  - Fritz Ianni
- ◆ **Consistent Adult Guidance & Support**
  - Werner/Benard (resilience theory)



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## Newer Research



### **Tony Bryk - successful schools in Chicago:**

- Principal: driver of change; inclusive leadership approach
- Real family and community engagement
- Ability to build professional capacity
- Student-centered school climate
- Coherent curriculum

### **Charles Basch - causal links between health issues and educational achievement:**

1. Poor vision
2. Asthma
3. Teen Pregnancy
4. Aggression and Violence
5. Physical Inactivity
6. ADHD
7. Hunger (especially insufficient breakfast)



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## Newest Research



### Ellen Galinsky – Mind in the Making: 7 Essential Life Skills

- ◆ Focus & Self Control
- ◆ Perspective Taking
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Making Connections
- ◆ Critical thinking
- ◆ Taking on Challenges
- ◆ Self Directed, Engaged Learning

### Paul Tough-How Children Succeed

Qualities that matter most have less to do with IQ and more to do with character, like:

- ◆ Grit
- ◆ Curiosity
- ◆ Conscientiousness
- ◆ optimism



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## Key Ingredients



- ◆ Education First
- ◆ Lead Agency as Partner, Not Tenant
- ◆ Full-Time Presence of Lead Agency
- ◆ Joint Planning (Particularly between Principal and CS Coordinator)
- ◆ Integration of CS Staff into Governance and Decision-Making Bodies (e.g., School Leadership Team)



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## Key Program Components



- ◆ Cradle to Career: *birth, infancy, Early Childhood; School-Age; College; Career ; Workforce Development*
- ◆ Community and Economic Development

Students	Parents	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Extended Day, Weekend, Summer/ Holiday Programs</li> <li>✓ Medical &amp; Dental</li> <li>✓ Mental Health</li> <li>✓ Family Events</li> <li>✓ Cultural Enrichments</li> <li>✓ Advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Parenting Training</li> <li>✓ Adult Education</li> <li>✓ Social</li> <li>✓ Networking</li> <li>✓ Job Training</li> <li>✓ Volunteer &amp; employment opportunities</li> <li>✓ Advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community Advocacy</li> <li>✓ Celebrations</li> <li>✓ Meeting Space</li> <li>✓ Education</li> <li>✓ Volunteer &amp; Employment opportunities</li> </ul>

## Results of CAS Community Schools



- ◆ Improved academic performance—ELA and Math
- ◆ Higher attendance rates—Students and Teachers
- ◆ Positive school climate
- ◆ Improved school safety
- ◆ Greater parent involvement
- ◆ Improved student-teacher relationships
- ◆ Community benefits, such as better use of public buildings and safer neighborhoods
- ◆ Teachers able to focus on education

## National Movement



- ◆ National Coalition for Community Schools founded in 1998
- ◆ Cities and districts begin “going to scale”
- ◆ Community school concepts embedded in Promise Neighborhoods, Collective Impact initiatives
- ◆ Community schools support Extended Learning Time (ELT) initiatives
- ◆ Community school language emerging in federal policy (Title I, Turnaround)

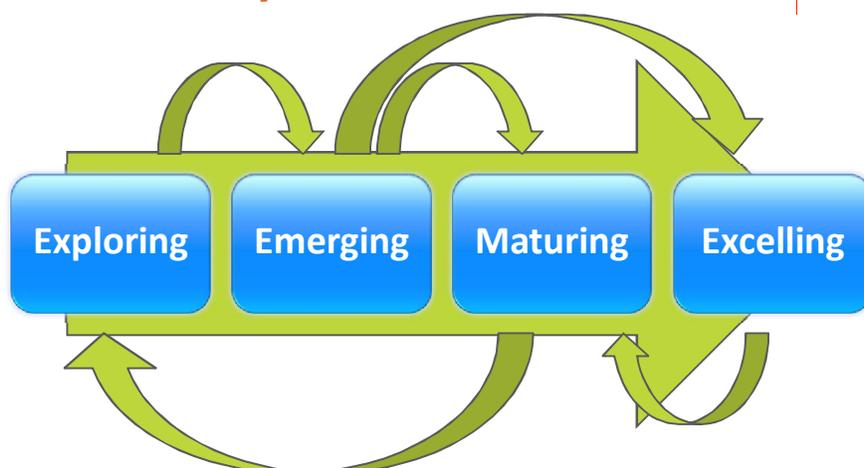
## Capacities & Stages

## Underlying Principles/Capacities



1. **Comprehensiveness:** Responding as fully as possible to the documented needs of students and families
2. **Coordination:** Structured and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders
3. **Coherence:** Supports/services are aligned (integrated) with the core instructional program
4. **Commitment:** Partners view CS as a long-term strategy, not a project, and do everything they can to make the partnership work

## Stages of Development in a Community School



## 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



**National Center**

*for*

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Consultation ◆ Advocacy ◆ Innovation



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[nationalcenterforcommunityschools.org](http://nationalcenterforcommunityschools.org)