

School Climate: Innovative
Approaches for School-wide Change
Friday, October 18, 2013



Community Schools

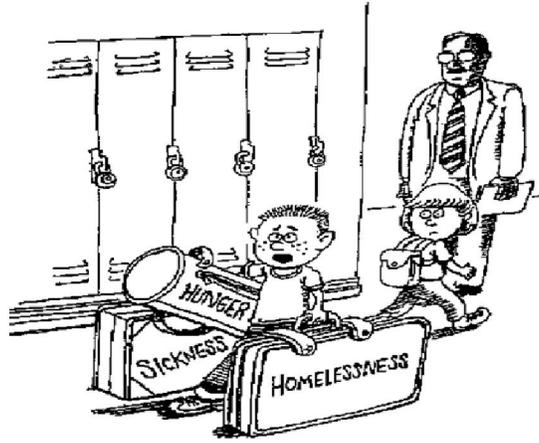
The Children's Aid Society

About Children's Aid



*The Children's Aid Society helps children
in poverty to succeed and thrive.*

*We do this by providing comprehensive
supports to children and their families in
targeted high-needs New York City
neighborhoods.*



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

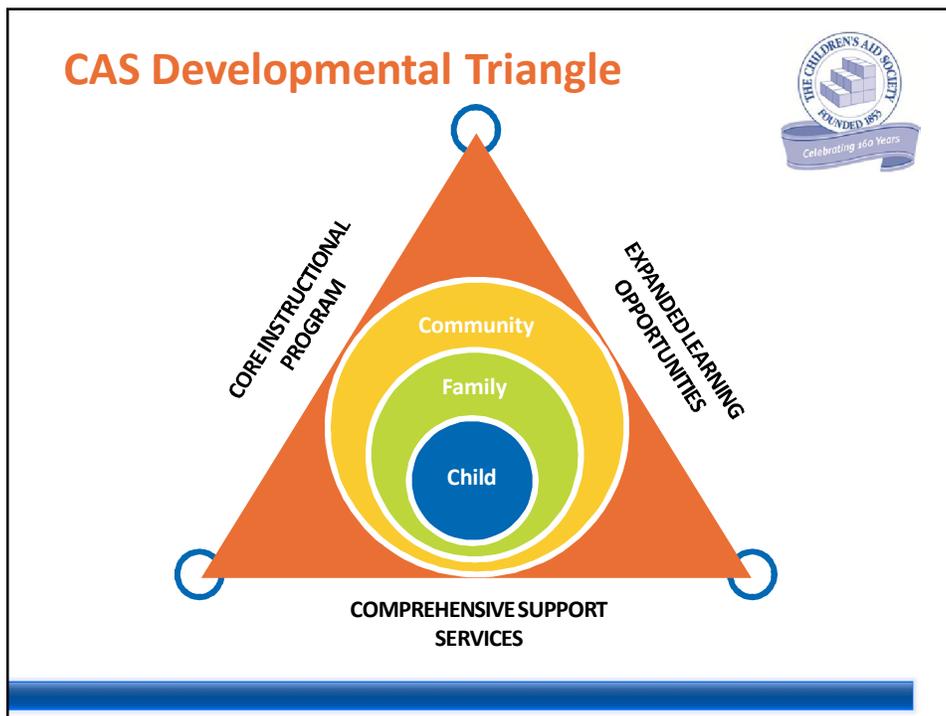
Scott Spencer

What is a Community School?



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

**Pat Harvey, Former Superintendent
St. Paul Public Schools**



- ### Sample Program Components
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- ◆ After-School and Summer Enrichment
 - ◆ Parent Engagement
 - ◆ Adult Education
 - ◆ Medical, Dental, Mental Health and Social Services
 - ◆ Early Childhood
 - ◆ Community and Economic Development

Results of Mature Community School Initiatives



- ◆ Improved academic performance
 - Every CAS elementary school scored at least 70% on progress; city-wide mean is 50%.
- ◆ Improved student and teacher attendance
- ◆ Reduced dropout rates and higher graduation rates
- ◆ Improved behavior
- ◆ Gains in indicators of positive youth development
- ◆ Greater parent involvement
 - in San Mateo County, California, 93% of parents attended parent-teacher conferences
- ◆ Community benefits, such as better use of public buildings and safer neighborhoods

Coalition for Community Schools Research Brief

Lessons about Leverage



- ◆ Non-education dollars from multiple sources can be leveraged
 - CAS schools: approximately 2/3 public funding (e.g., OST, Medicaid, early childhood) and 1/3 private
- ◆ Better utilization of existing services when in schools (City Connects, Mental Health Services)

*U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan calls
Community Schools “the most highly leveraged
dollars I spent in Chicago”*

Lessons about Implementation



- ◆ Starts with the Principal
- ◆ Aligned outcomes
- ◆ Difficult to do it school by school
- ◆ Data sharing

Social Return on Investment



- ◆ Recent study: *Measuring Social Return on Investment for Community Schools*
- ◆ The Finance Project and The Children's Aid Society
- ◆ \$10:1 return for elementary schools
- ◆ \$14:1 return for middle schools
- ◆ www.nationalcenterforcommunityschools.org



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