

# OAKLAND FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS





**Our Full Service Community Schools** serve the whole child; they invite the community in and extend boundaries into the community to accelerate academic achievement and overall wellness; they share responsibility for student, family, and community success. While every community school is unique to its school community, all Oakland community schools have a consistent set of foundation, program, and community elements at the core.

## FOUNDATION

### Equity

Our goal is to create a supportive and nurturing learning environment in every school, where all students, parents, teachers, principals, and staff are treated with respect and dignity. Community schools eliminate historical inequities and disparities in school achievement, discipline, and attendance. They create a mix of supports, opportunities, and partnerships to address inequities in their community and build a strong school culture.

### Coordination

Coordination is at the core of community school effectiveness. At a minimum, this usually means a dedicated Site Manager and coordination of services team (COST). The Manager works with internal and external partners to ensure that student and family supports are integrated with each other, and with the school's instructional program and daily life.

### Continuous Improvement

Community schools use data to inform decisions, identify and prioritize needs, guide resources, measure success, and strengthen both services and partnerships. Schools and partners have agreements and processes in place to share and use data to these ends.

### Collaborative Leadership

Community schools and the district have collaborative leadership structures with many opportunities for engagement. Partners, students, families, and the community are at the table—sharing their perspectives, looking at data, planning and improving the quality of the school, and participating in key decisions. Together they hold the community school vision.

### Partnerships

Community school partnerships share a common goal of success for students, families, and the broader community. Partners and schools work closely to align goals and outcomes to best meet the needs of the school community, including a positive school culture, and the varied academic, health, and social emotional needs of students and families.

### Resource Alignment

Community schools are a strategy for organizing the resources of a community in support of children and families—bringing together fragmented funding streams, and aligning diverse stakeholders' resources. Equity-based resource allocation, blended funding, integrated budgeting, in-kind resources, and joint fund development are just some of ways resources can be leveraged and sustained.

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## CORE ELEMENTS

### Academic and Social Emotional Learning

A high quality community school prepares students to be college, career, and community ready, which requires both academic and social emotional learning. This means having high quality and effective instruction, curriculum that is meaningful and challenging, and differentiated strategies to support high standards and expectations for all, from preK through 12th grade. It also means explicitly teaching youth and adults social and emotional competencies and skills—the ability to self-manage, be self and socially aware, make responsible decisions, and build trusting relationships, so that we can handle ourselves, our relationships, and our work effectively and ethically in the 21st century.

### School Culture and Climate

Oakland community schools are safe and healthy centers of their communities. They actively create an inclusive, welcoming and caring community, fostering communication that values individual and cultural differences. The thriving school culture encourages student leadership and academic achievement; with rituals, restorative practices, and celebrations that build community, caring relationships, and a positive school climate.

### Youth Leadership

Guided by the OUSD Meaningful Student Engagement Standards, community schools create a thriving school culture that encourages youth leadership, and partner with students by listening to their perspectives and acting on their recommendations for change. Youth engage in supports and opportunities that build their skills, competencies, and resiliency. At the secondary level, youth are decision-makers and school culture change drivers.

### Health and Wellness

Our community schools serve the whole child, providing a range of health and wellness programs and services that address barriers to learning, and create a safe and positive school climate. Students' physical and behavioral health needs are met on-site and through a robust referral system. Students have access to nutritious food, health education, and opportunities to be physically active. Families are engaged around supporting their children's health as well as their own. And staff wellness is actively fostered.

### Expanded Learning

Expanding learning builds on our strong afterschool infrastructure, deepening integration with the school and offering students and families learning opportunities before and after school, on weekends, and during summer. Opportunities range from enrichment and service learning, to academic intervention and credit recovery. The school and community work together to bring learning to life and give students the chance to explore subjects, careers, and passions.

### Family Engagement and Support

Guided by the OUSD Family Engagement Standards, community schools partner with families to understand and support their child's academic and social emotional learning, and the overall success of the school. Schools and partners also support families' education and basic needs so that they can best nurture their children's overall development.

### School Readiness and Transitions

Community schools work with a wide array of partners to create educational pathways from cradle to career for all students. Students are prepared and supported as they move from early childhood into elementary, middle and high school, and beyond into higher education, as well as during unexpected transitions. Students get a strong start in high quality, aligned early childhood programs, followed by innovative, well-developed career pathways that prepare our young people for success in college, careers, and their communities.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In Oakland, high quality community schools empower students, families, school staff, and the community to create a healthy, safe, hopeful and supportive community within and around the school. This is the way we will build and sustain a district of community schools that extends beyond individual schools to a concern for how we, as a community, come together in the service of all of our children. This type of community engagement includes working together on

- Neighborhood Safety
- Community Development
- Civic Engagement

# OAKLAND FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS APPROACH

