

Synopsis of pillars of Community Schools

The components or pillars of community schools are listed as either four, or six or more depending on the source of the reports. Below is a compilation of the community school components drawn from reports of four major educational organizations as well as Representative Steny Hoyer's description of a full-service community school. The various components have been placed where they fit under one of the basic four pillars. A fifth pillar is listed in this synopsis because it contains components that don't directly fit in the initial four.

1. Integrated student supports

- A. Early childhood education and development
- B. Primary care, dental care, and mental health services
- C. Academic support for student's pre-K through 12th grade
- D. Nutrition services to combat hunger insecurity
- E. Financial stability
- F. Positive discipline practices, such as restorative justice

2. Expanded learning time and opportunities

- A. High-quality early learning programs
- B. Youth development and mentoring programs
- C. Community service and service learning opportunities
- D. Job training and career counseling

3. Family and community engagement

- A. Services that help support parents and promote family engagement, family literacy, and parental involvement
- B. Access to social service programs for families
- C. Schools function as neighborhood hubs. There are educational opportunities for adults, and family members can share their stories and serve as equal partners in promoting students success.

4. Collaborative leadership and practice

- A. There is **mutual respect and effective collaboration** among parents, families and school staff.
- B. Community engagement, together with school efforts, promotes a **school climate that is safe, supportive, and respectful** and connects students to a broader learning community
- C. Parents, students, teachers, principals and community partners build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility using such as site-based leadership teams and teacher learning communities.
- D. **Inclusive school leadership** who are committed to making the Community School strategy integral to the school's mandate and functioning. They ensure that the Community School Coordinator is a part of the leadership team and that a Community

School Committee (Committee)—which includes parents, community partners, school staff, youth, and other stakeholders that are representatives of the school's

5. Excellent learning model.

- A. Curricula that are engaging, culturally relevant, and challenging.
- B. Emphasis on high-quality teaching, not on high-stakes testing.