



Community Schools Initiative

The Community Schools Initiative is a collaborative statewide effort led by the Oregon Commission on Children & Families to promote community schools as a way to address educational barriers and achieve Oregon's education benchmarks. Our shared vision is that every Oregon school is a community school..

What Are Community Schools?

Community schools are schools that combine the best educational practices with enhanced and extended day/summer programming to ensure that children are physically, emotionally and socially prepared to learn. Community schools function as community hubs where public and private resources converge to address barriers to learning. Communities share leadership and accountability for student learning, healthy families and thriving communities. Service components include: high-quality core instruction and enhancement; caring adult relationships; extended day and summer programming for youth development; health and social services; applied service learning; parent/care-giver education and engagement; early childhood services and adult education.

“We see our schools as the anchor of the community. The Community Schools Initiative is one way to improve student achievement, increase parental involvement and create opportunities for the community to support our schools.”

- Arne Duncan,
U.S. Secretary of Education

Initiative Goals

- To champion community schools as a way for government and community to effectively and efficiently use resources to support educational success for all Oregonians.
- To create a statewide policy framework for community schools that is aligned with local planning, state educational benchmarks and national best practices.
- To provide training and technical assistance to support the development, implementation and sustainability of a statewide network of community schools.
- To develop an evaluation framework that measures the effectiveness of community schools through common performance indicators.
- To invest in and demonstrate models of community schools that get results.

Targeted Outcomes

- Improved student achievement.
- Improved absenteeism and truancy rates.
- Increased student, parent and community leadership and engagement in schools.
- Increased monetary and in-kind resources for school-based services and activities.
- Increased positive community attitude and feeling of connectedness toward school.

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