The Reagan VT Community School Initiative

What is a Community School?

Community schools are high-quality neighborhood schools, doing whatever it takes to make sure that EVERY CHILD is provided a great education.

In particular, a community school . . .

• Engages families and communities in planning for the success of all students.
• Is shaped by the unique needs of the individual school community.
• Has high-quality academic programs from PK-12 for ALL students, preparing students for college and career.
• Provides for academic, social, emotional and physical development.
• Brings together a range of community partners to offer supports for students and families, including healthcare and adult education
• Coordinates supports to be both efficient and effective.
• Has rich extra-curricular and out-of-school time student programs
• Serves as a community hub.

How have Community School Strategies Worked in AISD?

Many AISD campuses use community school strategies, including Family Resource Centers, Parent Support Specialists, Communities in Schools, after school programs and full-day Pre-K.

Webb Middle School and Reagan High School, have used comprehensive community school strategies* that have produced dramatic changes, including:

• Reduced Student Mobility
• Increased Graduation Rates
• Increased Academic Performance
• Increased Enrollment and Attendance

An intensive community planning process, greater involvement of community partners, coordinated support services, and high academic expectations combined with hard-working teachers and administrators turned Reagan and Webb into high-performing neighborhood schools. On state tests, they not only surpass other Title 1 campuses, but also many local charter schools.

*Travis Heights Elementary is also in the early stages of using a comprehensive community school approach.

Education Austin and Austin Voices for Education and Youth (AVEY) will be working with the Reagan feeder pattern of elementary and middle schools to develop EVERY campus into a community school.

The Next Step

• Community planning processes on each campus
• Wraparound supports for students and families
• Early College High School preparation at all levels
• Strong afterschool, summer and extracurricular programs
• Coordinated partnerships across the feeder pattern