

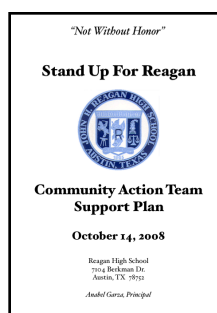
# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AT REAGAN HS AND WEBB MS



**Background:** In 2007 and 2008, Webb MS and Reagan HS, both serving the low-income St. John neighborhood in Austin, Texas, faced closure under state accountability law. An all-hands-on-deck effort by the local community, including parents, administrators, teachers, volunteers and community partners, produced “**community school**” turnaround plans and brought needed resources and programs to the campuses. Today, both schools have doubled enrollment and are performing well above comparable schools academically.

**Process:** At both campuses, a wide variety of stakeholders got involved. Planning teams were created that included parents, teachers, administrators and community partners. Dinners that brought hundreds together were held, with small breakout groups looking at strengths, challenges and resources. New partners were recruited and needed resources committed.

Community School plans were created and approved by the teachers, parents and local school board, with action steps beginning immediately to focus on crisis needs.



## Before Community Schools

- Attendance area includes Austin’s lowest-income and highest English Language Learner population
- Both schools closure at both schools due to repeated low-performance on state tests
- Poor attendance and high student mobility
- Needs of many students, including English Language Learners, not met by existing programs
- Disconnect between parents, community and the schools, with low attendance at school events
- Negative perception by the community, with enrollments decreasing
- No services to support family needs affecting student achievement
- Uncoordinated student supports and volunteer efforts
- Low teacher morale with top-down decision-making and little involvement by teachers and parents in school planning

## Today at Webb and Reagan

- Attendance area includes Austin’s lowest-income and highest English Language Learner population
- Both schools meeting state requirements every year since starting Community School efforts
- Increased attendance and reduced mobility
- Webb received 5 of 7 distinctions under state accountability in 2014
- Graduation rate at Reagan increased from 48% to 85% since 2008
- Dramatic enrollment increases (Webb from 435 to 700+; Reagan from 600 to 1,200)
- Coordinated wraparound services for students and families, including Family Resource Centers
- Strong parent and community engagement
- Early College High School programs at both schools, with Reagan seniors earning up to 60 college credits in high school
- Community School coordinators on both campuses holding monthly partner meetings to coordinate efforts, including volunteers and resources.



For more information, go to <http://savetxschools/communityschools>