

How to Become a Recognized Community School in Texas

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.



To learn more about community schools, go to:

Coalition for Community Schools @
www.communityschools.org

Save Texas Schools @
www.savetxschools.org



The Road to Becoming a Community School

1. Learn About Community Schools

Go online, make a site visit and talk to people who are experienced in developing community schools.

2. Form a School-Community Partnership Team

Ask key community partners, volunteers, alumni, parents, teachers, staff and administration to join this team that will guide the planning process.

3. Conduct a Campus and Community Asset/Needs Assessment

Use public meetings, surveys, focus groups, interviews and other data to find out about your strengths, challenges and resources.

4. Create a Community School Plan

Led by your School-Community Partnership team, form a plan that addresses barriers to learning, improves existing academic instruction, brings new programs and resources, and involves the community.

5. Connect with a Lead Nonprofit or Community Partner

Find a local nonprofit or community organization to help support you as you implement your plan.

6. Gain Approval of the Plan by at least 75% of Parents, Teachers and Staff

Community Schools are bottom-up, not top-down. Support from the parents and campus is vital for your plan to succeed.

7. Gain Approval of your School Board.

Present your plan to your School Board for approval and adoption.