

## Key Community School Strategies

These are ways Webb will build on current work and improve in 2015-17

### Strategy #1: As an Early College Prep Middle School, Webb will grow its college-going culture.

- Work closely with Reagan & Lanier to improve early college strategies.
- Emphasize college-going culture, including with parents.
- Increase college and workplace visits/summer internships.
- Add more advanced learning course offerings.

### Strategy #2: Webb will serve its community with new and relevant academic programs

- Implement new academic programs to attract area families, such as a World Cultures Academy and an Innovation (STEM) Academy.
- Continue growing a focus on language and literacy across the curriculum
- Keep class sizes small to support the needs of different students.
- Increase the number of volunteer tutors to help in classes.
- Continue growing SEL (social and emotional learning) practices.

### Strategy #3: Webb will improve its communication with parents and its connection to community partners.

- Strengthen parent communication and participation, and improve communication of Webb programs to the community.
- Improve signage around campus, including marquee
- Publish campus newsletter for teachers, partners, volunteers
- Increase Webb participation in community events, partner planning and service to the community.
- Use home visits/community walks to increase teacher understanding of the community and Webb families.

### Strategy #4: Webb will grow its extracurricular and extended learning (after school and summer) opportunities.

- Increase course offerings and participation in the after school program
- Work with the community to create new summer camp offerings
- Create a long-term plan for the growth of fine arts at Webb
- Grow youth leadership opportunities, including Student Council, NJHS, SL, and CFES Scholars Program.

### Strategy #5: Webb will improve the technology available to students and parents.

- Improve access to up-to-date technology at school.
- Increase opportunities for parents to gain technology expertise.

## Great Teachers & Staff

At the heart of a Community School are dedicated teachers and staff. These are our beliefs about how to maintain and grow these vital assets:

- Teacher voice is vital to improving any school, and teachers should be at the table with all stakeholders in planning their school.
- Teachers are professionals and should be treated respectfully.
- Teachers should receive the supports they need to do their job well, including training and resources.
- Teachers are part of a community of learners that includes students and parents.
- Teachers should know and understand the community where they teach.
- A stable and experience faculty is vital to the success of our school.

## Shared Leadership

Shared Leadership, where teachers, staff, parents, students and community, come together to plan and take responsibility for their school, is at the heart of this Community School Plan.

*We may have different roles, but we all have ideas that can make a difference!*

Here are ways you can be involved:

- Join the Community School Planning Team
- Be part of PTA and CAC
- Attend a monthly community partner meeting, parent coffee or dinner
- Email an idea to Austin Voices ([aweeks@austinvoices.org](mailto:aweeks@austinvoices.org))



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## WALTER P. WEBB EARLY COLLEGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

# COMMUNITY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Fall 2015

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Prepared by Austin Voices for Education and Youth

## What Makes Webb a Community School?

Since 2007, Webb has built its planning on Community School practices, including shared leadership and planning, community partnerships, supports for students and families, community engagement and a college-going culture. While still serving the same community, Webb has been able to become AISD's top-performing Title 1 campus. This plan overview demonstrates the many ways that Webb currently serves its students and families, along with strategies to improve in the 2015-16 school year.

School is a Welcoming  
Community Hub

*Elements of a Community School*



← Engaging High-Quality Academic Programs

← College, Career and Service Focus

← Community Partnerships

← Coordinated Supports for Families and Students

← Expanded Learning Opportunities (After School and Summer)

← Strong Early Childhood Programs

Parents, Teachers, Students and  
Community Plan Together



## Early College Middle School Program

**GOAL: Every Webb student is prepared for College & Career.**

*Some schools talk about college, but Webb, as part of the Reagan and Lanier Vertical Teams, is making it real! Students are prepared for both Reagan Early College High School, where they can earn up to 60 college credits before graduating, as well as Lanier High School, with opportunities for dual credit. Webb students can also earn college credit in Spanish while in middle school.*



**What does it mean that Webb is an Early College Middle School?**

- All students are prepared, through academically challenging, individualized curriculum, for high school and college level work.
- All students have the opportunity to receive college mentoring (AVID, Breakthrough, CFES).
- All students and parents learn about college, including financial aid opportunities.

## Strengths and Challenges

Our Community School Plan **builds on strengths and addresses challenges** identified through the planning process. These include:

### Strengths

- Welcoming Environment
- Students feel cared for and supported by teachers
- Top Title 1 Middle School in AISD, with 5 Academic Distinctions
- Academics connect together, with a focus on literacy
- Committed, experienced faculty & staff
- ELDA Academy/Support for English Language Learners
- Family Resource Center
- Strong student supports (CIS)
- Community partnerships
- Fine Arts, afterschool program

### Challenges

- Affordable housing (10% homeless, 25% mobility rate)
- 55% of students are English Language Learners
- Communication with families
- Access to technology
- Enrollment growth has led to crowded facility
- High needs of many students
- Changing neighborhoods
- Transportation/Parking

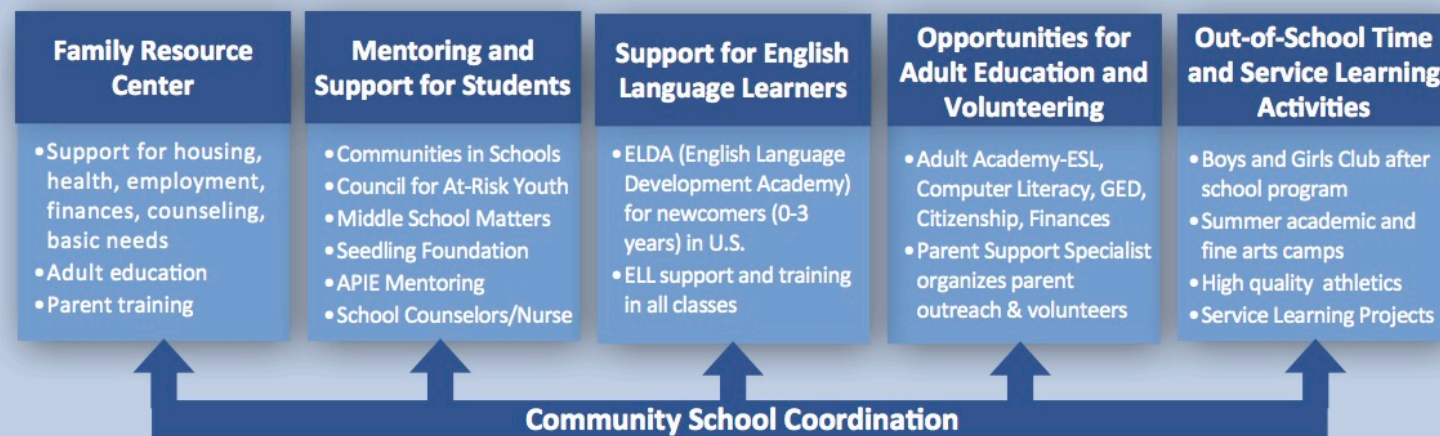
## Supporting Students and Families

**GOAL: Webb students are in school, every day, ready to learn and be successful.**

Webb students come from a variety of situations. For some students, external factors, including housing, health and other family issues, affect their ability to be successful in school. Other students may need extra support learning English. All students benefit from connecting with caring adults through mentoring, tutoring and extracurricular or out-of-school time activities. With support, all students can be successful.



Our Community School Plan includes these supports for students and their families:



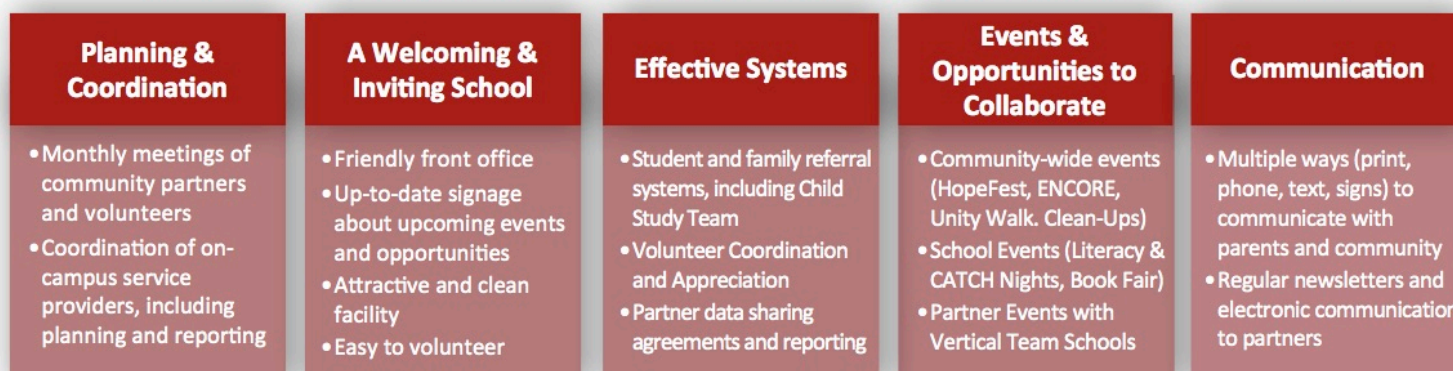
## Community Partnerships

**GOAL: Webb is a hub for community partnerships supporting youth and families.**



Webb recognizes that making sure that youth are supported and successful is not just the school's job, but that of many community partners, including families, churches, nonprofits, local government agencies including health, libraries, recreation centers and police, medical providers, higher ed institutions, youth organizations, businesses, community groups, and local residents. **Community Schools believe that everyone shares responsibility and benefits from collaboration.**

Our Community School Plan includes these efforts to build and sustain partnerships:



## Academic Strategies

**GOAL: Every Webb student receives a challenging and supportive academic program.**

- **Literacy across the curriculum**, with a focus on growing students' academic reading, writing and public speaking skills in all core classes.
- **Critical thinking skills**, helping students extend their learning from retaining information to being able to understand, synthesize, evaluate and question.
- **Individualized interventions** are used to catch students up and help struggling learners. A variety of methods, including tutoring before, during and after school, help close gaps and keep students engaged.
- **AVID College-Readiness skills**, such as Cornell Notes and WICOR teaching and learning strategies, are used school-wide to prepare students for high school and college.
- **21st Century Technology Skills** are woven into the Webb curriculum, including a variety of Career and Technology classes.
- **A well-rounded education** is the goal, with students offered a variety of electives including award-winning fine arts, career exploration, culinary arts, web design and more.
- **English Language Learners**, who comprise 55% of Webb's students, are served by the highly-respected ELDA program for newcomers and through sheltered instruction and other strategies for ELL students. All Webb faculty are trained to support English Language Learners.

## Behavioral Strategies

- **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)** teaches students skills to navigate relationships and the challenges of school effectively. It also gives teachers and students a common language for resolving conflict and setting expectations. SEL is used school-wide at Webb, with lessons taught during advisory period.
- **Restorative Justice** is an alternative approach to addressing behavior issues being explored by Webb. Restorative Justice looks for ways to keep students connected to school and community.