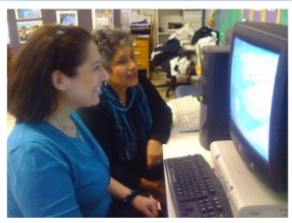


# Wraparound Services Best Practices

Try out these ideas as part of your Community School Plan

## Family Resource Centers

A Family Resource Center is a welcoming space that connects parents and community to your school. Find a room or portable building at your school to house social service case management, computers for parent use, space for adult education, parent meetings and volunteers, and a children's play area.



## Community Resource Fairs

Local health, education, employment, housing and other resource providers are eager to connect with schools and communities to hold resource fairs. These can also be part of your plan to build positive connections with the community.



## Partner Meetings

Monthly meetings between campus and community partners can increase planning and communication. They also serve as a place for new partners to join the community school effort. In addition, social service partners should hold meetings to coordinate student and family case management between themselves and school staff.



## Family Surveys

At the beginning of each school year, family surveys can go home to parents to update family information, find out about housing, health insurance and other basic needs, and gauge interest in volunteering and adult classes.



## Personal Opportunity Plans (POPs)

Personal Opportunity Plans are a way to develop student-centered learning on a campus. POPs combine academic goals with academic and social supports, geared to a student's interests and needs. POPs can be an effective way to connect wraparound services with college and career preparation in a community school.



## How do you fund wraparound services?

The first step in obtaining support for wraparound services is to work together with your partners to develop a plan that you can be shown to funders. This includes a joint vision, needs statement, strategies and goals.

Resource and funding sources include:

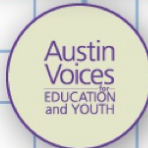
- Leveraging existing nonprofits, government agencies and others that provide resources to families
- Federal, state and local grants for after school programs, community schools and social services
- School district funding and in-kind donations, including facilities
- National and local foundations
- Community partners and donors, including faith-based organizations, businesses and community groups.

## Wraparound Services Resources

- Coalition for Community Schools [www.communityschools.org](http://www.communityschools.org)
- Transforming Student and Learning Supports (2015) Adelman & Taylor
- Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets (1993). Kretzmann and McKnight
- Partnerships, Not Pushouts (2014). National School Board Assn. et al.

\* Community School documents at [savetxschools.org](http://savetxschools.org).

Questions?  
Contact [info@savetxschools.org](mailto:info@savetxschools.org)



## BLUEPRINT FOR BUILDING A COMMUNITY SCHOOL

# WRAPAROUND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



Spring 2015

Austin Voices for Education and Youth / Save Texas Schools

## What are Wraparound Services?

Community Schools work to provide the conditions for learning where every child has what he or she needs to succeed. This includes offering wraparound services for students and families to address barriers to learning and ensure that children are in school, every day, ready to learn. Community schools coordinate both campus resources and community partners to provide a network of wraparound services.

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



## The Basics of Wraparound Services

Wraparound Services are part of a “whatever it takes” approach to supporting children. Recognizing that each community has different needs and different resources, wraparound services may include: physical, dental, mental health and social services for students and families, extended learning and after school programs, early childhood development, mentoring and tutoring and family engagement, parent leadership and adult education classes.

In order to be effective, a plan for wraparound services needs to include coordination, needs assessment and planning, communication, accountability and resource development.



## Surveying Your Current Resources and Systems

As part of the Community School planning process, make a list of all of your current support partners, including campus-based partners and those to whom you may refer students. Examples include:

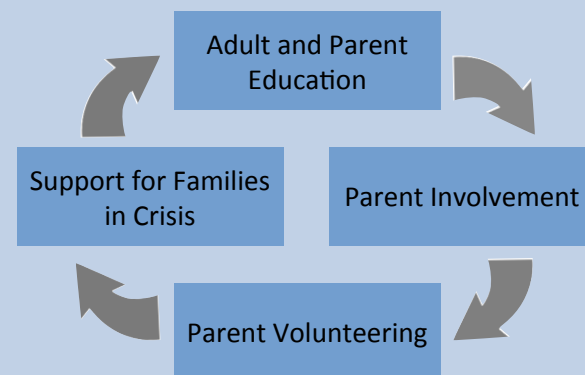
- Mentoring and Tutoring Programs
- Mental and Behavioral Health Programs
- Health, Dental and Vision Programs
- Dropout Prevention and High-Risk Group Intervention Programs
- College-Focused Mentoring Programs (AVID)
- After School and Out-of-School Time Programs
- Homeless, Migrant and Refugee Support
- Family Support and Parenting Programs
- Early Childhood and Special Needs Programs
- Truancy Prevention and Restorative Justice Programs

Understanding key systems, including attendance, discipline, support services and academic guidance, are part of the planning assessment. Improving and aligning systems will be need to be part of your Community School plan.

## Supporting and Engaging Families

For many students, external factors, including housing, health and other family issues, affect their ability to be successful in school. Community Schools seek to address these barriers to learning in order to ensure that students can be in school, every day, ready to learn.

Addressing these external factors demands both reactive and proactive approaches. A Family Resource Center with a social worker, for instance, can provide crisis support for families with immediate needs, while also providing a range of services, such as assisting with health insurance, housing, or transportation. The staff can also be proactive, offering classes or making outreach calls around common challenges. By providing these services, families become more stable .

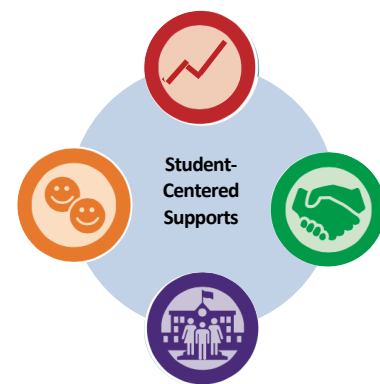


In addition to offering support, a Community School is also a place where adults can increase their own education and skills. They also can engage in a range of activities, from parent coffees and PTA to community festivals and being part of the school planning team. Ultimately, parents learn to become advocates for their children’s learning and engaged volunteers at the school.

Depending on the community, a cluster of schools close to one another may think about combining their resources and planning around family support and engagement.

## Supporting Students

The goal of Community Schools is to increase the percentage of students completing high school ready for college, career and life. Research shows that low-income and minority students enter school less prepared and face greater challenges to successfully completing school than other students. Student supports can balance the scales at key moments throughout a child’s education journey. A Community School combines **effective programs, coordinated systems, a healthy school climate, and a supportive community as it plans student supports.**



From “Partnerships, Not Pushouts.” National School Boards Assn. et al (2014).

- 📈 **Effective support programs** align with campus needs and have the capacity to support all students (early childhood, health & mental health, ELL, GT, Special Ed/ Special Needs, mentoring, tutoring, pregnant and parenting teens, dropout prevention, after school and summer).
- 🤝 **Coordinated Systems** that connect academic, behavior and attendance with student and family supports are in place. Support providers and campus staff work closely together to coordinate efforts.
- 💡 **A healthy school climate** provides a positive and supportive environment for students, teachers and parents. Approaches such as PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) and SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) are used consistently.
- 🏘️ **A supportive community** is involved in planning student supports, and community partners are part of a coordinated system. The school leverages services effectively from nonprofits, government agencies, health providers and others.

## Connecting and Coordinating with Local Partners

Building relationships between on-campus partners, as well as connecting with community partners, is the job of the Community School Coordinator. Rather than having disconnected supports, a Community School will bring partners together to develop a joint vision, based on the particular needs of the campus. A good start for this process is for partners to describe and compare what their programs offer and who they serve.

**Other steps to improving coordination may include:**

- Monthly or Quarterly Planning Meetings
- Memorandums of Agreement (MOUs) between the campus and its partners
- Shared data systems and reporting
- Jointly-sponsored campus and community events
- Shared funding and grant writing
- Campus/Community Resource Guides

## Connecting Supports with Academics

While most would agree that wraparound services for students and families can improve a student’s chances to succeed academically, there often exists a gap of understanding between educators and social services. The fact is that teachers have never been social workers and vice versa, and their ways of working may be different.

**Community Schools can bridge this gap through several strategies:**

1. Have a Community School Coordinator who understands both academic systems and social services.
2. Develop referral and feedback systems for tutoring, mentoring and social services for teachers to use.
3. Train teachers about student supports and social services; include service providers in academic planning.
4. Hold weekly referral meetings that include service providers and academic staff.
5. Weave together support and academic strategies for high-risk students in the Community School plan.