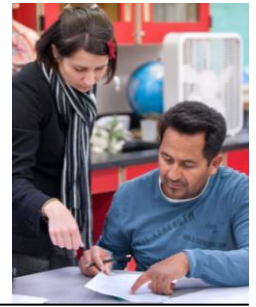




“When schools truly become the heart and center of a neighborhood – a community anchor – there are tremendous dividends for children.”

– US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

Denver Community Schools Connecting Students and Families to Essential Resources



Denver Community Schools Planning Group

PARTNERS

Catholic Charities of Denver

Denver Mayor’s Office for Education and Children

Denver Parks & Recreation

Denver Public Schools Department of Extended Learning & Community Schools

Mi Casa Resource Center

PROGRAM SITES

Cole Beacon Neighborhood Center

Mi Casa Neighborhood Center at Lake Middle School

Noel Beacon Neighborhood Center

Neighborhood Center @ Skinner

Place Beacon Neighborhood Center

The Community Schools Planning Group (CSPG) is a dynamic partnership among government agencies, the school district, and non-profits that is focused on supporting the community schools work at neighborhood centers in Denver Public Schools.

As champions of the community school model, CSPG works to enhance the out-of-school-time programming and support services offered to DPS students and their families.

About Community Schools



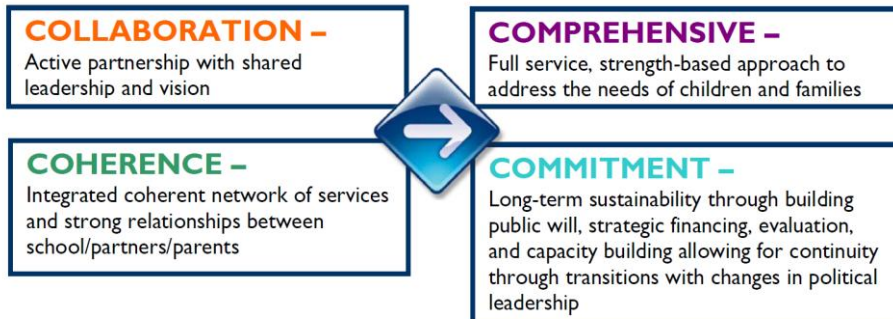
The community schools model addresses the educational, health and social needs of youth and their families through a variety of school-based services:

- ◆ Extended day program offering educational enrichment before school, afterschool, weekends and summers;
- ◆ Comprehensive parent involvement programs;
- ◆ Adult education and support; and
- ◆ Medical, dental, mental health, and social services (either on-site and/or through referrals).



Community schools are proven to improve student achievement, increase parental involvement, increase student and teacher attendance, improve school climate, decrease special education referrals, and improve students’ mental and physical health.¹ Through rich out-of-school-time opportunities, community schools also increase community safety and prevent crime.²

PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL



¹ The Children’s Aid Society. (2001). *Building a Community School* (third edition). New York City: Author.

² Afterschool Alliance. (2007, April). *Afterschool Programs: Keeping Kids — and Communities — Safe*. Retrieved from afterschoolalliance.org.



In an effective community school model, host schools, community-based organizations, and government contribute to a common service delivery model leveraging the strengths each has to offer, overcoming barriers and ensuring sustainable, long-term results.

Neighborhood Center Impact

The neighborhood centers at Cole Arts & Sciences Academy, Lake Middle School, Place Bridge Academy, Rachel B. Noel Middle School, and Skinner Middle School currently support positive outcomes for DPS students by providing:



- ◆ **Out-of-school-time programs** for over 1,400 students both after school and during the summer months leading to improved school day attendance and CSAP scores for students who attend regularly.³



- ◆ **Student and family support services** through partnerships and collaboration including health needs assessments in partnership with Regis University, free backpacks of food in coordination with Food Bank of the Rockies, legal clinics, car seat donations, assistance with school uniforms, transportation support, and a space for adult recreation.

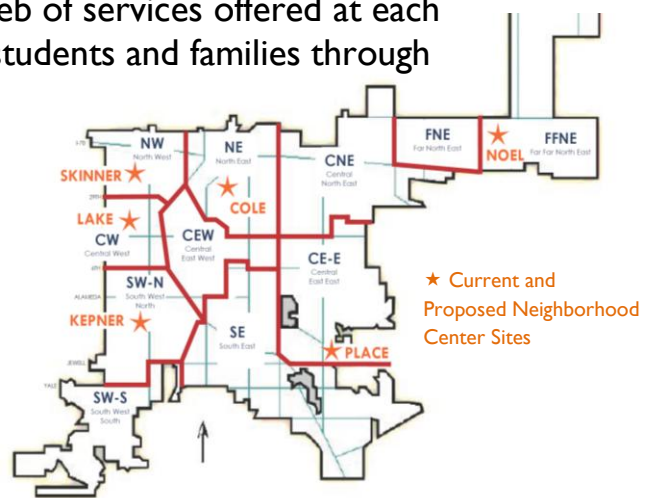
- ◆ **Adult education** classes including ESL, GED preparation, computer literacy, and parenting classes.

Where We Are Headed

CSPG's goal is to deepen and strengthen the web of services offered at each neighborhood center and to connect to more students and families through ever-increasing community boundaries.

We will accomplish this by:

- ◆ Engaging stakeholders from across sectors that serve youth and families;
- ◆ Supporting further development of community schools in Denver; and
- ◆ Supporting the implementation of Denver's Youth Agenda.



Our efforts will model how collaboration and shared accountability can positively impact the well-being of Denver youth.

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 720-424-8261

³ Regular attendees are defined as those who attend 30 or more days.