Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

SDH Innovations: Full Community Schools

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Overview:

• New York State child education outcomes are low across the pipeline.

• Research shows that health and education are linked: healthier children are more engaged and a better education yields greater health outcomes over a lifetime.

• Children spend a considerable amount of time in schools, and, therefore, health care in partnership with schools can play an important role in shaping children's health knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and health outcomes.
Full Community Schools Model

Integrates academics, youth development, family support, health and social services and community development to improve student learning, and build stronger families and healthier communities.

- Aims to have an impact on the entire community, not just the students; therefore they provide an opportunity to improve overall community health.

- Brings together many partners to offer a range of support and opportunities to children, youth, families and communities in a centralized ‘hub’—before, during and after school, and on weekends.
Full Community Schools Model

Example Community School Initiative: NYC Community Schools

- United Federation of Teachers partnership with 31 schools across the 5 boroughs of New York City (20,000 students)

- The Community Learning Schools Initiative is designed to help neighborhoods by:
  
  • Transforming schools into community hubs and facilitating partnerships between schools, non-profits, businesses and government to remove barriers to learning.
  
  • Minimizing disruptions in the day-to-day life of students, parents and schools by providing on-site services;
  
  • Raising the achievement level of a school by addressing the specific needs of that school and providing quality services to meet those needs.
What the Four Pillars of Community Schools Look Like in Action

Enrichment activities emphasize real-world learning and community problem solving.

Parents, students, teachers, principals, and community partners build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility using strategies such as site-based leadership teams and teacher learning communities.

Schools function as neighborhood hubs. There are educational opportunities for adults, and family members can share their stories and serve as equal partners in promoting student success.

A dedicated staff member coordinates support programs to address out-of-school learning barriers for students and families.

Infographic courtesy of: https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/product-files/Community_Schools_Effective_INFOGRAPHIC.pdf
By strategically placing supports within a public school, a trusted community gathering place, the Community School serves as a hub for students and families, and provides the ideal environment to impact the social determinants of area residents.
Full Community Schools Model

- **Potential Return On Investment:** Provides a much needed and **effective way to organize fragmented services and to integrate funding streams**, permitting scarce dollars to generate a greater impact.

- **Scalability/Feasibility:** There are many examples to follow of successful scale-up efforts of the Community Schools model and **both public and private funds exist to support the development of a Community Schools model**.
Full Community Schools Model

- **Evidence-based to support innovation:** evidence supports well-implemented community schools being included as part of targeted and comprehensive interventions in high-poverty schools, as they can produce **positive student outcomes**

- **Relevance to Medicaid Population:** Bringing schools and health care providers together can bring greater Medicaid resources into schools and communities
Full Community Schools Model

- **Speed to market:** There is also an existing infrastructure of support via the United Federation of Teachers, Coalition of Community Schools, Children’s Aid Society and other supportive organizations that provide technical assistance to agencies who wish to implement the model within their community.