



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools

Report to the L.A. Unified Board Committee of the Whole
June 18, 2020

*Integrated
Student
Supports*

*Expanded &
enriched
learning time*

*Family and
community
engagement*

*Collaborative
leadership
and practice*

The Promise & Need for Community Schools

Pia Escudero, LCSW

Executive Director, L.A. Unified Student Health & Human Services



Dr. Sylvia Rousseau

University of Southern California

Community School Steering Committee Member



Community Schools





At a Glance



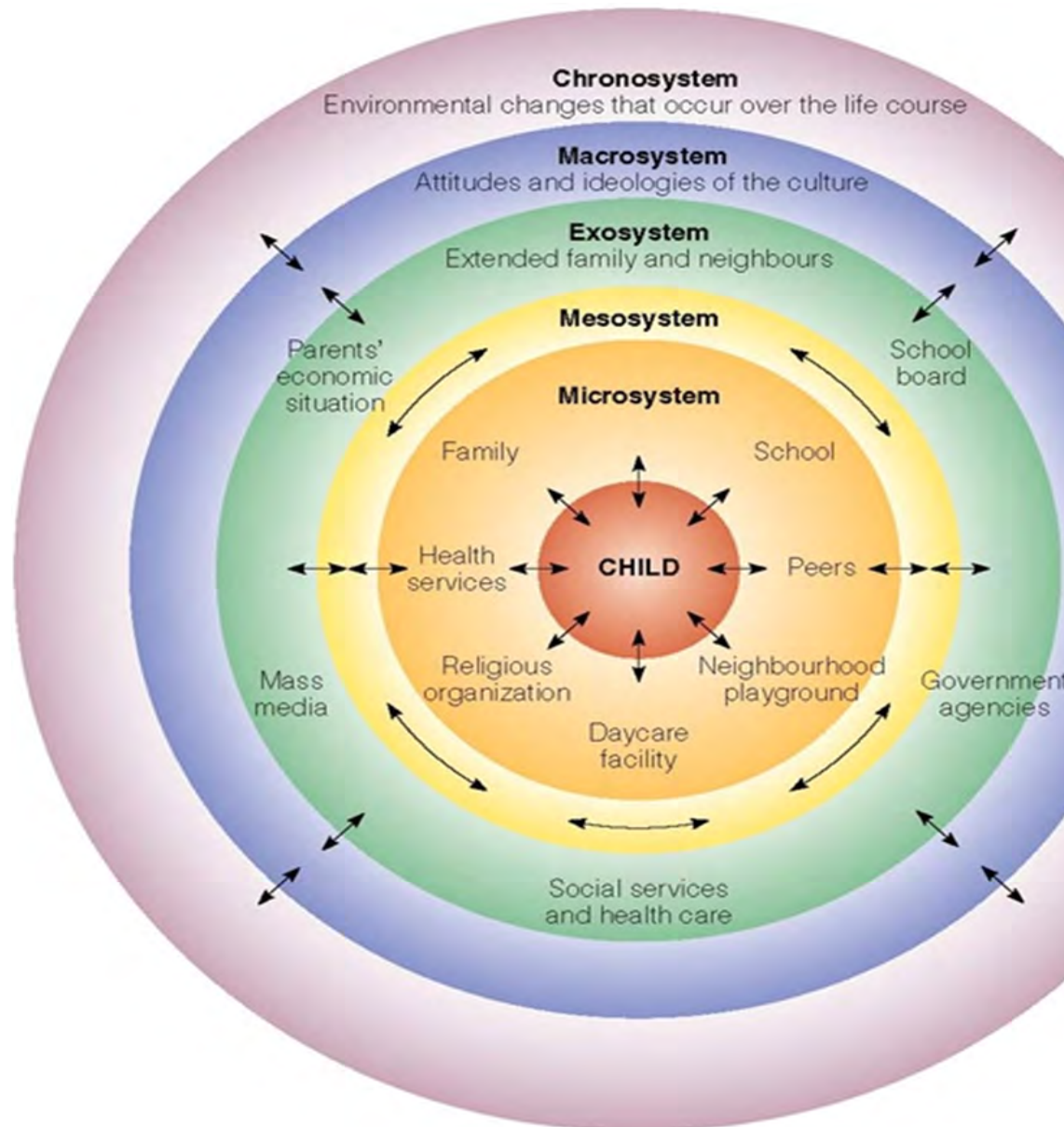
SHHS support for Community Schools Seven Targeted Trainings for Cohort I Communities

- Trauma informed practices
- Crisis response
- Community partnerships
- Positive behavior support and intervention services
- Best practices in Community Schools

Community Schools

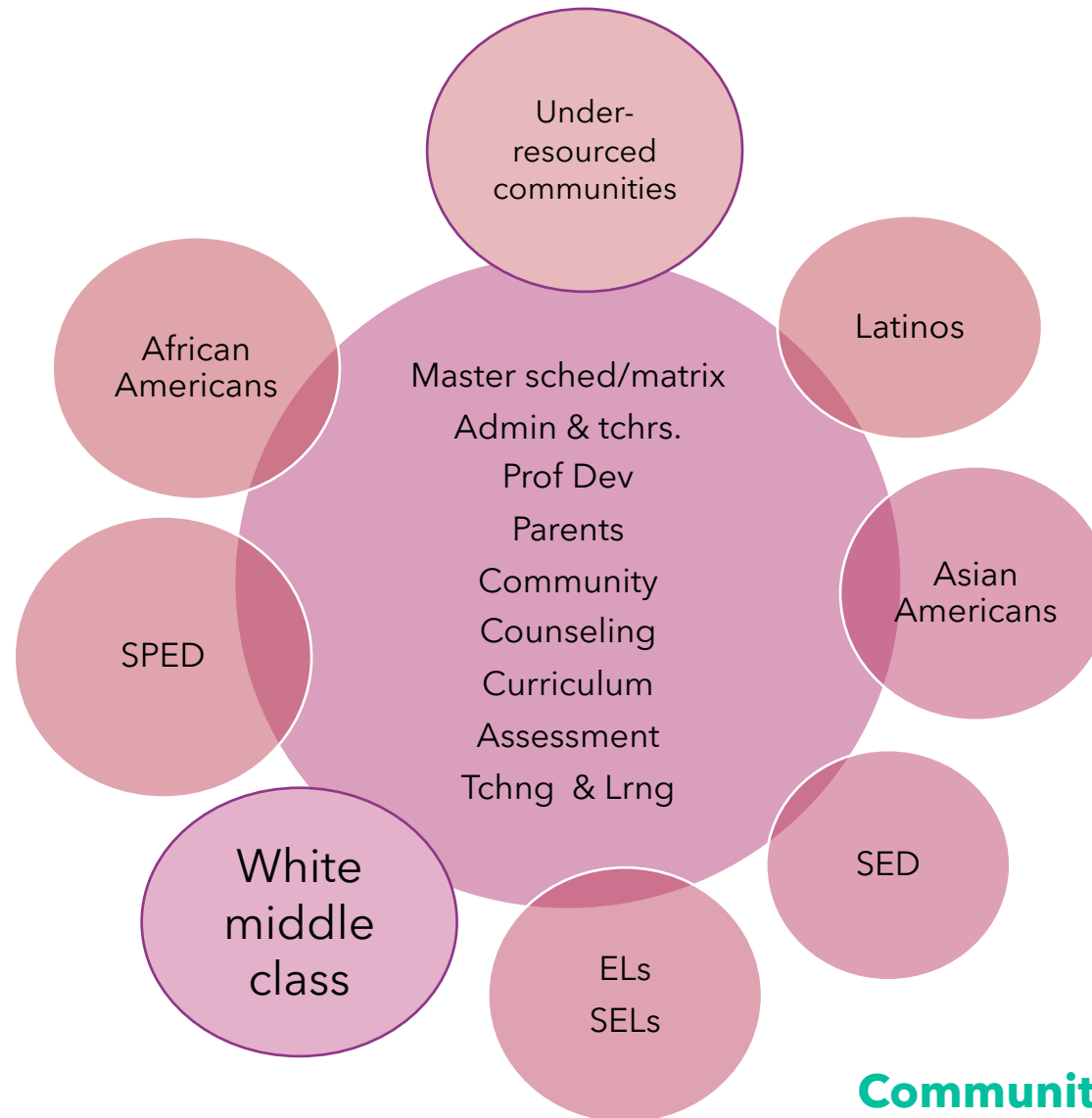


OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL



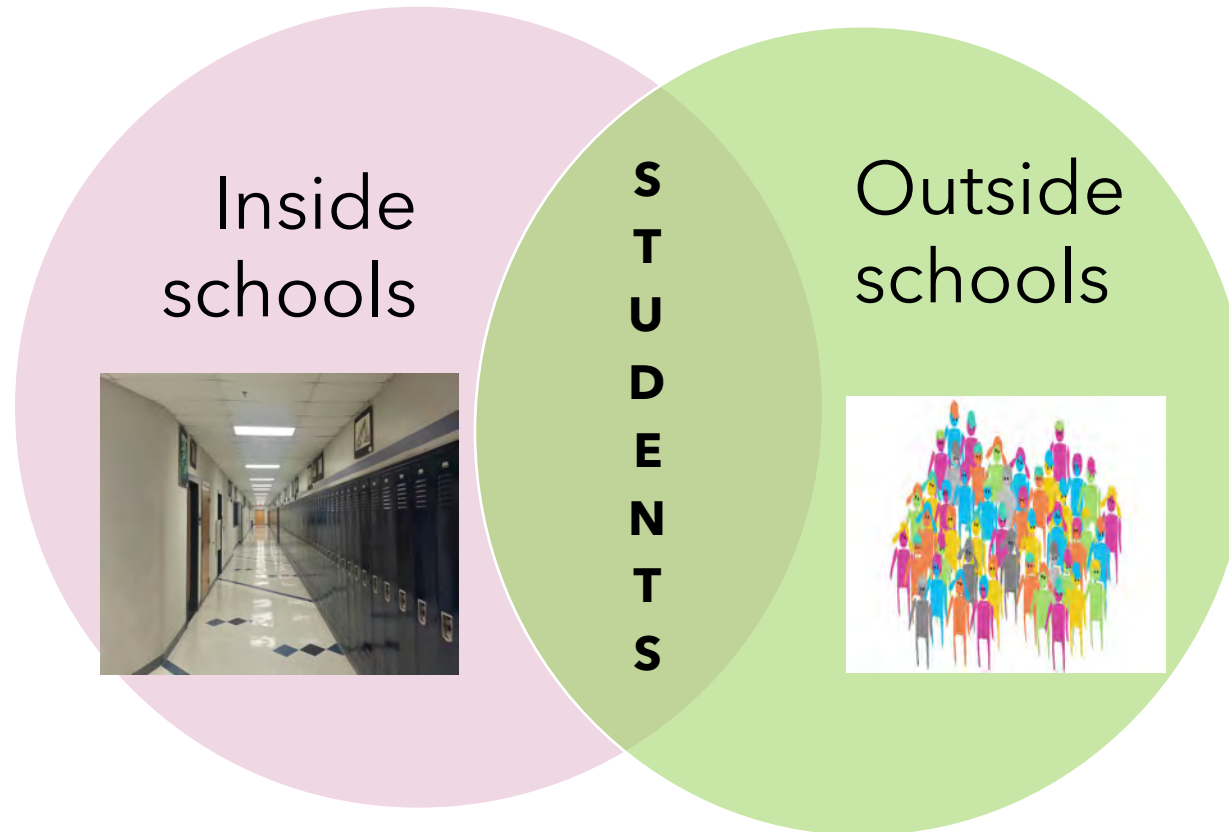
Legacy Model of Schools in America

INSIDE THE SCHOOL



Community Schools





Key Components of this Community School Model

Kyle Serrette | *Senior Policy Analyst, National Education Association*

Mechanisms

1. Community School Coordinator
2. Needs/Assets Assessment
3. Stakeholder Problem Solving Teams
4. Community School Stakeholder & Partner Coordination

Pillars

1. Integrated student supports
2. Expanded & Enriched Learning time and Opportunities
3. Active Family of Community Engagement.
4. Collaborative Leadership & Practices

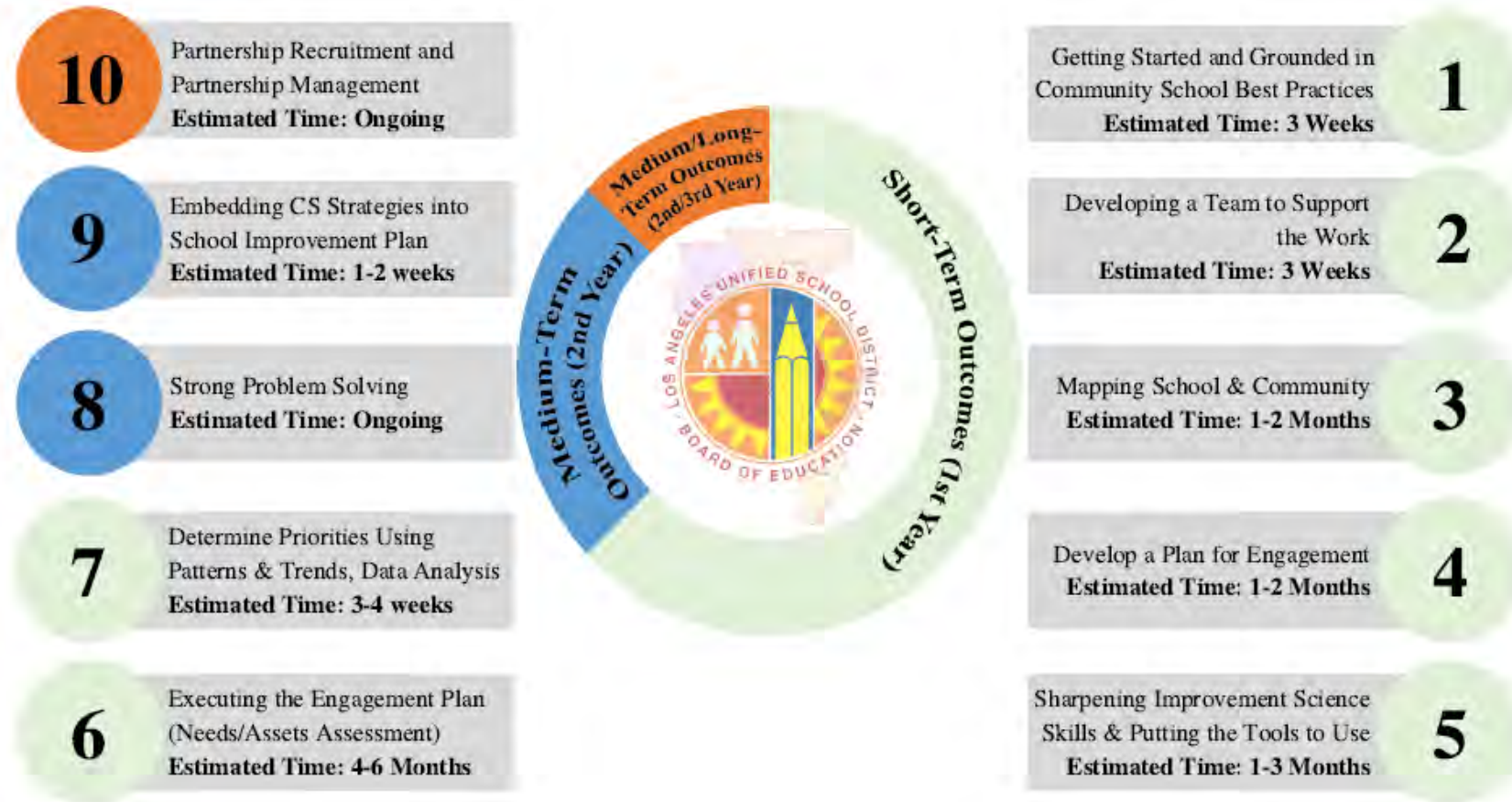
Community Schools



Key Components of this Community School Model



Community School Benchmarks



Community Schools



Community Schools: History in LAUSD

Antonio Plascencia

Director, Parent and Community Services

Community School Steering Committee Co-Chair

Rosa Jimenez

Title III Instructional Coach, UCLA Community School

Community School Steering Committee Co-Chair

Marisa Saunders

Principal Investigator, UCLA Consortium of Community Schools

Community Schools





- Reclaim Our Schools LA (ROSLA) formed in 2016.
- A coalition of parents, educators, students, & community members working to improve access and advance opportunities in public education for all students so they thrive in the classroom, in their communities, and beyond.
- Key goals:
 - Advance the Community Schools model in LAUSD
 - Fight privatization
 - End random searches
 - Fully fund public schools

Community Schools



Schools L.A. 
STUDENTS DESERVE



laane»
A NEW ECONOMY **FOR ALL**

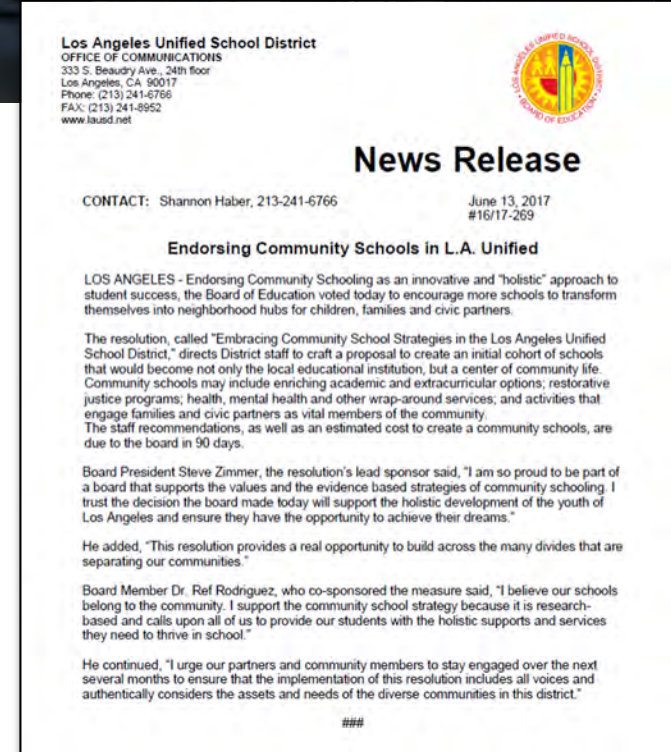


Community Schools



Our Work to Advance Community Schools

- On July 13th, 2017, the Board endorsed a resolution that called for the creation of a Community Schools plan.
- Out of this resolution came the Community Schools Implementation Team (CSIT).
- Leaders met with all board members and Deputy Superintendent Ekchian to ask for \$5 million to fund the effort.



Community Schools



Los Angeles Unified Community Schools Implementation Team

- Office of the Deputy Superintendent organizes a team with student, family, teacher, labor, and community representation.
- Partners develop a syllabus to study the tenet of Community Schooling at Los Angeles Unified
- Resulted with a plan highlighting existing Community Schools and partner organizations incubating this framework at Los Angeles Unified.
- Findings highlighted over 20 years of Community Schooling with Los Angeles Education Partnership, Youth Policy Institute, UCLA, and sites organically leading with the tenets.

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Inter-Office Correspondence
Student Health & Human Services
Division of Instruction

TO: Vivian Ekhchian, Deputy Superintendent of Schools DATE: June 13, 2018

FROM: Community Schools Implementation Team (CSIT)

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT & EXPAND THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL NETWORK AND PATHWAYS IN THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The purpose of this correspondence is to propose an integrated set of recommendations, and processes that will guide the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to create a comprehensive community school framework, and coordinate supports from central and local district offices for schools that are designated by the LAUSD to operate as community schools.

The recommendations included in this correspondence were shaped by multiple voices that represent internal district administrators and community partners, which include members that played a role in support of the Board Resolution entitled *Embracing Community School Strategies in the Los Angeles Unified School District* (Res-098-16/17). The Resolution requests for the LAUSD to convene a Community School Implementation Team (CSIT) to "advise and assist staff in the preparation of a report outlining proposed implementation procedures." The list of CSIT members is included in Attachment I.

BACKGROUND ON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Research on Community Schools as Democratic Schools that Invest in Group Capacity and Assets

The concept of Community Schools suggests a belief that every child is entitled to a quality public and district operated school in every neighborhood. This kind of schooling affirms the relationship between democracy and education in which "intellectual pursuits are accessible to all on equal terms" (Dewey, 1916) and not limited based on race or class. Furthermore, Community Schools also call on members of the school community, from the youth, parents, administrators, teachers, staff and community partners to work collaboratively to improve conditions for learning, achievement, and the wrap around services afforded to communities. Michael Fullan (2011) consistently speaks about four drivers that are most effective for whole system improvement, and those include: a focus on capacity building, investments in group/school climate, focus on instruction, and systemic strategies that are coherent and interconnected. Community Schools are examples that complement the democratic school theory and the tenets for continuous and systemic improvement supported by Dewey and Fullan.

Page 1 of 13

Community Schools



Los Angeles Teacher Strike

- The LA Teacher Strike centered Community Schools in its platform.
- During negotiations with LAUSD, UTLA referenced the CSIT's document which outlined a vision for the implementation of Community Schools.
- Per the agreement, funding was allocated for 2 community school cohorts for 2 years.
- A steering committee made up of 16 members selected by both District and UTLA was formed. Co-Chairs: Antonio Plascencia and Sharon Delugach



Community Schools



Co-Conveners:



- UNITE-LA on-boarded as Co-convenor – connects Community Schools to L.A. Compact
- Establish Community Schools Steering Committee and Co-chairs.
- Adopt a logic model and implementation timeline.
- Coordinate support for Cohort I
 - Application process
 - Workshops
 - Scoring
- Select and onboard first 17 of our 30 sites.



UCLA CONSORTIUM OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Community Schools



Who we are?

Marisa Saunders

Associate Director for Research

UCLA Center for Community Schooling

Nivia Alvarado, Rosa Jimenez, Darlene Tieu, Roberto Vega,
Lorenza Yarnes

Teacher Research Fellows

Los Angeles Unified School District

Community Schools



Center for
Community Schooling

Community Schools



What we do?

- Acknowledge the history of community schools in Los Angeles Unified School District
- Document diverse instantiations of community schools
- Identify, document and elevate local community-based practices that strengthen student outcomes, families, neighborhoods and community
- Lift teacher voice and leadership
- Contribute to and strengthen the community school

How do we know our work matters?

- Attendance rates
- Biliteracy rates
- Graduation rates
- College attendance rates
- School culture and climate
- Teacher retention rates

Q&A



Highlights from L.A. Unified Community Schools

Jhamed Babatunde | *Specialist, Student Health & Human Services*

Community Schools





*Congratulations,
Catskill Ave. Elementary!
California Distinguished School
2020
Carson, CA*

COMPASSION
OWNSHIP
UNITY
GOALS
ACHIEVE
RESILIENCE
SERVICE

Catskill Ave. Elementary School Carson, CA Local District 7



www.catskillcougars.org

- Now a California Distinguished School 2020
- LAUSD Community School Cohort 1
- School for Advanced Study
- Dual Language Spanish Program

<https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs>

Catskill Ave. Elementary School

Large Community Participation in Catskill Community Evening Townhall Meetings

Ongoing survey to address the needs of our learning community. Families are brought together as a Community School.



Multi-Tiered Student Support Systems Foster Higher Student Achievement

- Catskill achieved 2020 California Distinguished School Award
- Catskill is 1 of 278 schools recognized as 2020 Top Los Angeles County Public Schools



Commitment to Our Core Values



COMPASSION
OWNSHIP
UNITY
GOALS
ACHIEVE
RESILIENCE
SERVICE

Community Service and Partnerships to Meet the Needs of All Learners



- During Covid19, staff went into the neighborhood to deliver technology devices, and provide information to community resources related to food, housing, utilities and other support.
- LA Galaxy had donated t-shirts and backpacks, Shoes That Fit gave 100 pairs of Adidas shoes, Operation Teddy Bear and Books In Homes gave away free books to every student.
- Carson Sheriff's building connection with parents and students to support neighborhood safety.
- 5 PSW Interns from top CSU universities support individual student and group counseling services.

<https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs>

Farmdale Elementary, an IB World and Community School

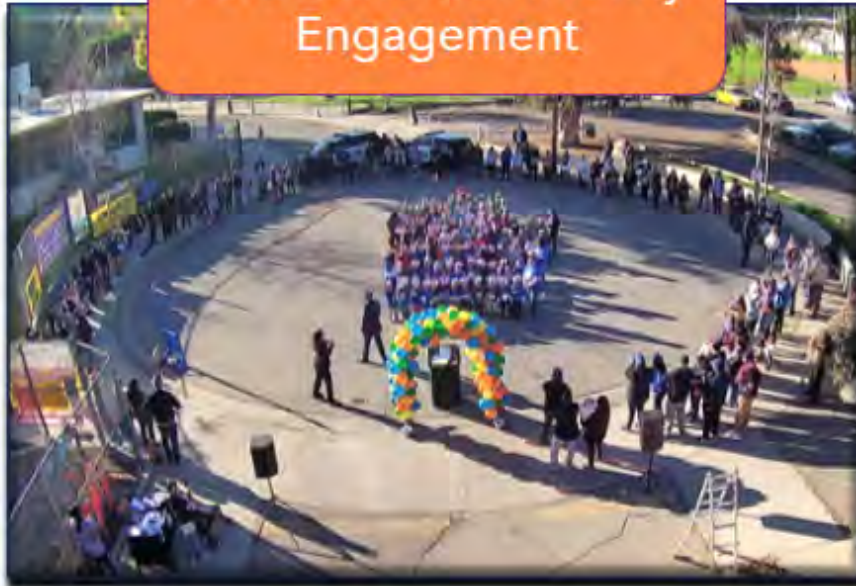


YEAR 1 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over 100 parents and community members participated in a 100 Days Math Celebration to kick off our Community School distinction and partnership with LA City Parks and Recreation. The event was planned by 13 parents.

Increased parent participation with weekly, evening meetings held on zoom that attract 14 to 24 parents consistently including new parents who have not before participated

Parent and Community Engagement



Staff and teachers have mobilized to assess individual Farmdale families' immediate needs. To date 61 families have been surveyed and several families connected to basic needs such as food.

Integrated Student Supports

Students, parents and teachers are having a voice as stakeholders in the needs assessment

According to 169 students surveyed in grades 3 – 5, 69% feel stress mostly due to testing

**Oscar Sandoval, Proud
Principal**
<https://achieve.lausd.net/principals>

YEAR 1 ACCOMPLISHMENTS Continued...

A group of **ten, 4th and 5th grade students** worked from November 2019 to March 2020 to **survey 80% of each grade** to support our **school's needs assessment**.

Students took their recess and lunch recess to survey more than 340 classmates. Over 80% of each grade.

Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities

Collaborative Leadership and Practice



YEAR 2 PLANS

Continue Community School Leadership Team meetings and oversight of plan

Continuation of virtual platforms to engage parents (technology classes, etc)

Develop strategic connections for students, parents and teachers to resources that support student learning

Building leadership capacity among all stakeholders groups

All of this was made possible and will continue through the **facilitation** and **outreach** of a **Community School Coordinator**.



**Miramonte Community
School**
1400 E. 68th St
Los Angeles, California 90001

Miramonte Community School is the home of 29 general education classes, 7 Special Educations programs and a K-3rd grade Dual Language Program. Miramonte hosts pre-kindergarten through fifth grade programs that service 751 students, of which 97% are Latino, 2% are white, and 1% are African-American. 46% of the students are English Language Learners, 12% are students with disabilities, and 3% are Gifted and Talented. 100% of our students receive free/reduced price meals under the Federal School Lunch program. **Miramonte is part of the Diego Rivera Community of Schools in Local District South in the Florence-Firestone Community of Los Angeles County.**

<https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs>



Miramonte Community School

- Increase the access and education on Behavior/Mental Health, Physical Health and Nutrition. Increase referrals to health care providers
- Increase and build relations with community partners, community organization, businesses and political representatives.
- Establish fresh fruit and vegetable pantry on campus.





Panorama High School

**Omar Escamilla, Community
School Coordinator**

Rafael Gaeta, Principal

<https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs>



- SEPA Center Opening
- Know Your Rights – Resources Fair
- 2020 Young Men's Leadership Conference





Van Nuys Elementary Community School

6464 Sylmar Ave.

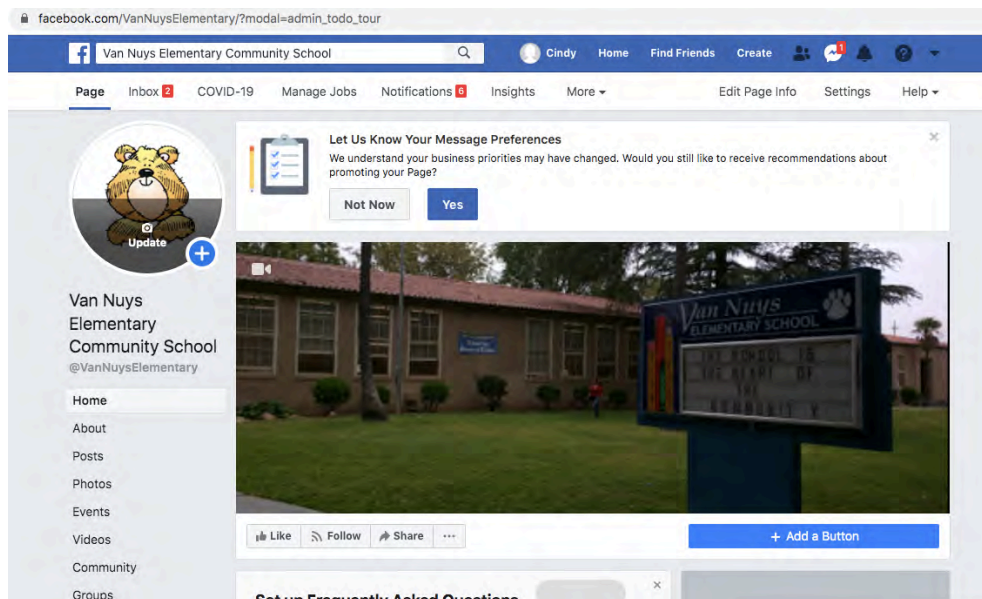
Van Nuys, CA 91401

818-785-2195

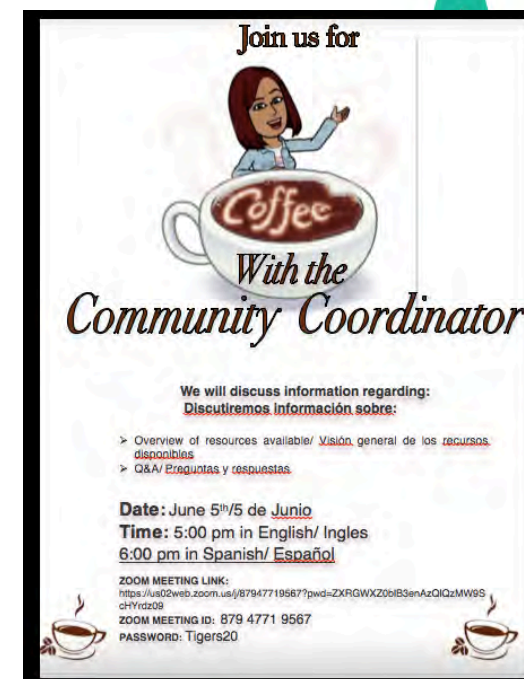
<https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs>



Provided parent, student, and staff opportunities to convene in a fun and safe environment such as Game Night to build community.



During the pandemic, we have found new ways to continue communicating and offering support and resources to parents by using Facebook, school website, Zoom, phone calls, and Google voice.



We have offered workshops via Zoom in English and Spanish to assist with parent portal enrollment, summer school application, P-EBT guidance, Schoology, and share PCSS resources.

<https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs>



Vine Street Elementary

955 Vine St
Los Angeles, CA 90038

<https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs>



- Developed a school community needs tracker for staff to address needs during the Covid-19 pandemic (food, financial, undocumented etc.)
- Connected students and families with resources
- Worked with school partners to continue providing services remotely





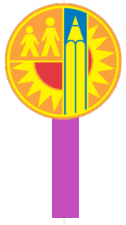
WPES

Walnut Park Elementary School



Principal,
Saraid Luna
Community School Coordinator,
Moises Amezcua

<https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs>



Tiger Strides!!



- **Community Partnerships**, we have been lucky enough to create a partnerships with **UMMA Organization, The Fremont Wellness Center, the Office of Hilda Solis and the Gloria Molina Center**. These partnerships have been a great resource for us as a school and a Community Hub.
- **Student Council**, It is essential that the voice of our kids be heard, especially at a time like this. We have been able to establish a Student Council, comprised of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. There is 2 classroom representatives who were selected by a voting process. They are mentored and guided by the Community School Coordinator and two other teachers.



*International Baccalaureate
World School*
**Woodrow Wilson
High School**

<https://achieve.lausd.net/shhs>



2020

Working with the Family Advocacy System/FAS classes from our Small Learning Community/SLC of *Health, Entrepreneurship, Art Resulting in Transformation/HEART*, began a series of **Exploration in Health Careers Forum(s)** with Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science to foster not only awareness of expanding Career Technical Education/CTE pathways at Wilson in Sports Medicine, but also provide an opportunity for interested juniors and seniors to apply for potential early enrollment at CDU to continue their post-secondary education.

2020/21

Continue to support and expand the work of the **LAC+USC Medical Center** partnership with Wilson, that is not only intending to bring a mobile health clinic to campus, but that also has provided parents with a forum for discussing current health topics and has also been working with a group of health classes on current events surrounding health related concerns. We would like to expand on the work with the **LAC+USC Medical Center** by instituting new protocols such as **Parent Wisdom Circles**, that can be either conducted on-site or remotely, in the hopes of garnering additional parent voices on issues that not only affect them but also the greater El Sereno community in regards to health related concerns.

2020/21

Continue working with students, parents, and teachers on building upon initial conversations around creating more inclusive strategies for creating plan(s) of action that strengthen the home-school connection. This would involve collaboration across the board to hopefully institute some of the following:

- **Virtual Parent/Teacher Home Visits**
- **Schoology Groups for Parents that cover a broad range of topics centered on improving and bolstering the home-school connection**
- **Edgenuity courses/Schoology Groups for students that provide support in social/emotional issues and mental health awareness**

Highlights from L.A. Unified Community Schools

Esperanza Martinez | *Parent & Community Organizer, UTLA*

74th St Elementary, 93rd St. Elementary, Alta California Elementary, Alta Loma Elementary, Euclid Ave. Elementary, Mendez High

Community Schools



Community Schools Cohort 1

74th St Elementary School

74th Street Elementary & Gifted Magnet School



Principal, Karima Gillenwaters

74TH Street Elementary Highlights

ROBOTICS



Our Robotics club develops students' interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math using the engineering design process. This program is geared towards gifted and high achieving African American students and seeks to foster leadership and critical thinking skills.

SAVVY GIRLS & CELEBRATED SONS



Savvy Girls and Celebrated Sons are unique mentoring programs at 74th Street School. Both programs promote core values and instill an unwavering cultural awareness and P.R.I.D.E.

"Bring The HEET TV" *Project-Based Learning*



This project-based learning program engages students in solving real-world problems that affect African American students. Students develop deep content knowledge, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, communication, and technology literacy skills. Students showcase their learning on "Bring The HEET TV."

93rd Street Elementary School



Community School

Principal, Victor Sanchez

Community School Coordinator,
Ingrid Villeda

Integrated Student Supports

Covid-19 Crisis Needs Assessment and Beyond

- **687 teacher responses, achieving over 70% benchmark for parent engagement**
- **2 questions: How are you today? Is there anything you need?**
- **Implemented a system that allowed us to create tools to better assist parents with one on one support, access services, and build relationships**
- **Over 90 families that received groceries**
- **Over 30 families that received cleaning products**
- **Over 15 families that received baby products (including baby formula)**
- **Over 25 families that received personal care items (including feminine hygiene products)**
- **Over 10 families that received help with transportation needs (gas cards)**
- **Over 20 families that were matched with agencies for cash grants**

Expanded Learning time and Opportunities

- **Developed enrichment classes for students that allowed them to remain at school for extended time: Art, Dance, Leadership Class, and Circle Club for boys**
- **Hosted Saturday sports clinics**
- **Hosted Story Time on Saturday morning for children 3-6 years old in our school library**
- **Upon school closures quickly shifted services to virtual enrichment offering: Dance, Art, Book Club Literature Circles, Cooking, STEAM CAMP, and Story Time for our young students**
- **Implemented a summer virtual enrichment program that offers Typing, Cooking, STEAM CAMP, Art, and our very first African American Cultural Club**

What Does Love Look Like At Our School?



where? ZOOM
meeting days? Mon / Tues / Weds
time? 2:00 - 2:45pm
begins on June 22, 2020
sign up at bit.ly/93rdsummerdance





Alta California Elementary



Alta California Elementary & Gifted STEAM Magnet

Mr. Benitez- Principal

Ms. Schramling- Community
School Coordinator



Alta California Elementary Community School Highlights!



- ☐ Establish multiple pathways for parents, teachers, and students to engage & participate with the school community
 - ☐ Instagram @altacaelementary
 - ☐ Facebook: Alta California Elementary & Gifted STEAM Magnet
 - ☐ ESL Classes for parents
 - ☐ Spanish 101 Classes for teachers
 - ☐ Professional Development for teachers & parents
 - ☐ Google Shared Folder: Distance Learning Resources
- ☐ Create & implement Needs Assessment for students & families to address & triage immediate needs during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - ☐ Food
 - ☐ Housing
 - ☐ Employment
 - ☐ Technology
 - ☐ Mental Health
- ☐ Establish partnerships with community members & outside agencies to support students, teachers, & families
 - ☐ Counseling → Child & Family Guidance Center
 - ☐ Resource Bank → Food, clothing, baby supplies, cleaning products, feminine supplies, etc.
 - ☐ Partner Funding: LA's Best, 2 Bit Circus, Playworks, Education Through Music

Alta California Elementary School

Alta Loma Elementary School



Alta Loma Elementary At the Heart of our Community

Sean Leyva, Principal
Jennifer Liebi-Zelazny, Community School Coordinator
Yasmin Flores, Leadership Team Member



Three Highlights from your school community:



Integrated Student Supports

- Play based behavior reward
- Good Sports Grant for equipment
- 100% of our students agree:
 - ***"My teachers work hard to help me with my schoolwork when I need it."***

Expanded Learning Time

- Saturday ELD Tutoring
- Zoom Reading Lab-48 Lessons
- Zoom- Tutoring
- Saturday Zoom Reading Club
- Fort Nite Zoom Party

Family and Community Engagement

- Received two Neighborhood Council Grants
 - GAP- Grandparents As Parents
 - PESA-Parents Educators Students in Action
- Zoe Church/Parent Volunteers Weekly Grocery Delivery for Families

Collaborative Leadership & Practices

- Team tech support
- 94% of the staff agrees/strongly agrees
"This school promotes personnel participation in decision-making that affects the school practices and policies staff" Up from 87%



Weekly partnership with Zoe Church to deliver food to over 100 families.



Teachers supported community partners to move online to continue working with our kids on Saturdays.



Alta Loma Elementary, Together Eagles Soar!

Social events to bring the children together.

Euclid Ave Elementary School



**P
A
N
T
H
E
R**



LAUSD Community School



**Euclid Avenue Elementary Gifted Magnet
STEAM and Two-Way Immersion Spanish
Dual Language**

Cristina Munoz, Principal

Aide Valenzuela, Community Schools Coordinator



**P
R
I
D
E**



Expanded and Enriched Learning time and Opportunities



Enrichment through
Linked Learning



Conga Kids



After School Fieldtrips



Remote First Lego Robotics Jr. League



VEX Robotics



Disney
MUSICALS
IN SCHOOLS

Starring:

Eastman Avenue Elementary

Euclid Avenue Elementary

Dr. Owen Lloyd Knox Elementary

San Gabriel Avenue Elementary

Dance and Performing
Arts

Jazz and Hip-Hop Classes



Common Threats Small Bites



Summer Rocket Launch Program



Attention Euclid Panthers you are invited to join ...

ART with Ms. Torres!

Time: Monday, May 11, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

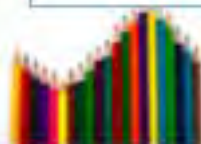
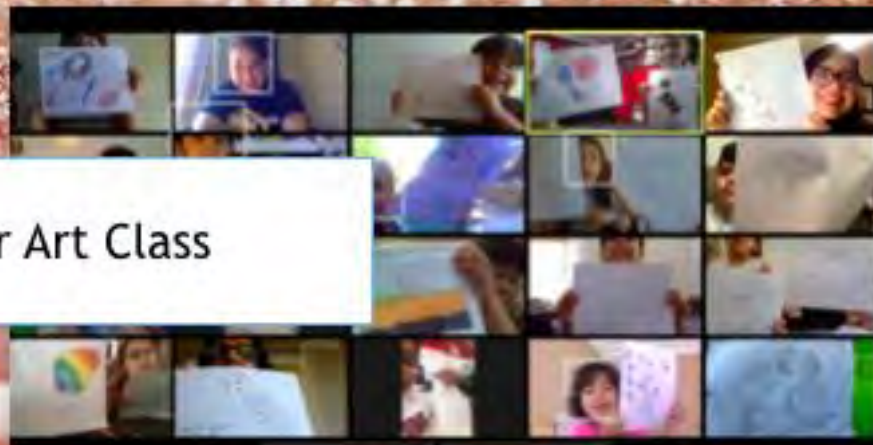
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6904972473?pwd=VzI5ZUd5TmVqTTA5VFF5ZFBadXFkUT09>

Meet
Pa

Have your white paper, p

Remote Extra-Curricular Art Class



Science Camp



LA Kings Jr. Hockey League



After School Small Bites Cooking Class

Family and Community Engagement

LACC ESL Class



LACC Computer Class



Common Threads Family Nutrition Class



Book Club



Community Health and Resource Fair



Community Christmas Posada



Fall Harvest Festival





Dia de los Muertos



Family Learning
Nights



Parent/Guardian
and Me Dance



Community School Picnics and Movie Nights



Clothing Boutiques



Resource Distribution



We continue to travel in this journey and our story continues...





**Felicitas & Gonzalo
Mendez High School**



**Mauro
Bautista,
Principal &
Emily Grijalva,
Community
School
Coordinator**

“The Happiest Place on Earth”

<https://achieve.lausd.net/s/bhs>



"IT TAKES A VILLAGE: ENGAGING STUDENTS, FAMILIES, SCHOOL STAFF, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Family & Community Engagement

Surveying Our Needs & Assets

**What do you love
about Mendez?
What areas do we
need to improve in?**

- **Tabling**
- **Social Media Campaign**
- **Coffee, cookies, and teacher survey**
- **Student Survey**
- **Family & Community Surveys**

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

TEACHERS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS MIXER

Thursday Jan 30th
During Lunch
In The MPR

COME MEET THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS ON CAMPUS THAT SERVE OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES!
LEARN ABOUT:

- THEIR SERVICES
- THEIR CASELOAD/REFERRAL PROCESS
- POTENTIAL COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES
- AND MORE!

COFFEE & TREATS WILL BE PROVIDED!
SEE MS. GRIJALVA FOR MORE DETAILS

<https://achieve.lausd.net/s/bhs>



Jriel Woody Martinez

Q&A



Recommendations & Next Steps from the CSSC

Carrie Lemmon| *Senior Director Systems Change Strategy, UNITE-LA*

Community Schools



Recommendations & Next Steps

1. Build on this critical moment for racial justice and community empowerment to engage our community schools in integrating these discussions with students, family & community
2. Increase attention to instruction & improvement science as Cohort 1 moves into the problem-solving phase of the implementation process
3. Adopt a best-practice validated curriculum for Community School Coordinators & co-construct processes to connect schools with specific technical assistance & PD identified as a need by school teams
4. Formalize a collaborative governance structure & shared decision making for the community schools initiative, and build staffing capacity to effectively implement & expand

Recommendations & Next Steps

5. Develop a Community School Partnership Committee
 - Document existing longstanding successful partnerships as models for expansion
 - Assist in brokering and streamlining partnerships with organizations or systems that are desired across multiple sites
 - Work with LAUSD to remove administrative burdens to school partnerships
6. Evaluate early successes and lessons learned from the LAUSD pilot, as well as from broader community school efforts in the region
7. Develop a 5-yr plan for sustainability & expansion
8. Connect to and support the expansion of a broader community school movement in the L.A. region, that includes existing community school sites and LACOE's pilot

Thank you on behalf of the Community School Steering Committee!

- Antonio Plascencia, LAUSD
- Jose Gonzalez, LACOE
- Jose Navarro, LAUSD
- Susan Kagehiro, Stuart Foundation
- Maria Davila, South Gate City Council
- Michelle Broadnax, LAEP
- Eric Gurna, LA's Best
- Rosa Jimenez, RFK Community School
- Sylvia Rousseau, USC
- Alex Caputo-Pearl, UTLA
- Kyle Serrette, NEA
- Jsane Tyler, Parent
- Alejandra Delgadillo, Parent
- Sharon Delugach, LAUSD Board District 5