



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Focusing on student leadership and a strategic integration of wraparound services to effect overall school improvement and student success

SUMMARY

CSS uses a collaborative, data-informed, and relationship-driven approach, grounded with a focus on student leadership, to partner with schools to improve student and school outcomes. CSS helps *Community Schools* provide student leadership opportunities, strong family partnerships, engaging academic instruction, social services for families and community members, and professional learning opportunities for teachers. Through carefully cultivated partnerships with school leadership, students, families, teachers, and community members, CSS Community Schools develop customized Community School plans that focus on student attendance, health and wellness, social-emotional development, academics, youth development, and more. CSS serves as a lead community-based organization for over 20 Community Schools.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CSS helps schools identify and put into place whole-school and targeted interventions that provide an integrated focus on academic, social, and emotional learning, such that every student and family has strong relationships with the school and an individualized pathway to success. Each child and family is strongly connected with at least one school-based adult; each family partners with the school to provide students with an outstanding education; and students and families benefit from comprehensive expanded learning, enrichment activities, and wraparound services.

Our work in Community Schools includes:

- implementing CSS's flagship **youth development solutions**, including Peer Group Connection and Achievement Mentoring;
- using **data to drive continuous improvement** that leads to more efficient and effective school processes;
- creating an **infrastructure of student support** in which students and families are connected to the school community;
- building the capacity of school faculty and staff to provide **academic and social-emotional support** for students;
- implementing **tiered intervention and prevention strategies** that address whole-school needs and support high-need groups;
- **engaging and empowering families** by creating leadership opportunities and fostering two-way communication between school and community; and
- **developing partnerships** with community-based organizations that address specialized needs in the school community through services such as mental health, enrichment activities, academic supports, and more.

With CSS's support, schools implement a comprehensive and transformative whole school strategy that effectively meets the academic, social, emotional, and health needs of all students, with the vision of facilitating student success.

For more information about CSS and *Community Schools*, please contact Dr. Margo Ross at mross@supportiveschools.org.

You can also visit our website at www.supportiveschools.org.