School-Community Partnerships

What we know about what works to improve student success

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Why School-Community Partnerships

Science tells us that it is harder to learn with hunger, unmet medical needs, or trauma. These experiences can also undermine a child’s ability to pay attention, regulate emotions and behaviors, and organize and remember information – the very things required for academic learning, holding a job, and contributing to our shared prosperity.

Stresses which undermine healthy development and readiness to learn, can be countered with **protective relationships, resources, and opportunities**. Schools and community organizations provide these, along with safe, enriching settings for learning and development.
Key:
Get the right resources to the right student at the right time, over time
The current delivery system

- Domestic Violence Programs
- Mentor & Tutor Programs
- Attendence Support Programs
- Translation Services
- National School Lunch Program
- School Vacation Programs
- School Health Screenings
- Enrichment Programs
- Homeless Student Support
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Social Emotional Learning
- Growth Mindset Program
- Behavior Management Programs
- Juvenile Court Services
- Playworks
- Child Protective Services
- School Safety Programs
- School Violence Prevention & Response
- Health Services
- LGBTQ Support
- Student support for undocumented students and families
- Volunteer Support
- Health Services
- Suicide Prevention & Intervention Programs
- Trauma-informed Programs
- Family Support
- Counseling & Mental Health Rx
A high quality Integrated Student Support delivery system

School Based Supports

Community Based Supports

Prevention

Prevention

Early Intervention

Early Intervention

Intensive Intervention

Intensive Intervention
What is Integrated Student Support?

Integrated student support is an evidence-based approach for schools to provide student support by intentionally and systematically leveraging and coordinating the resources and relationships available in the school and in the surrounding community.

Integrated student support addresses the comprehensive strengths and needs of each and every student in a school in order to help promote healthy child development and learning.

For any school.
The National Guidelines for Integrated Student Support

- Draws on the sciences of learning and development, and proven models in the field
- Answers HOW effective approaches get results
- Co-developed by practitioners and researchers including: Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR), City Connects, Communities In Schools, NYC DOE Community Schools, National Center for Community Schools
The National Guidelines for Integrated Student Support

The Guidelines help policymakers **identify effective approaches** to school-community collaboration and **support schools** to establish the **operational infrastructure and best practices** necessary to broker resources, relationships, and opportunities that promote student learning and lifelong opportunity.
Effective approaches to school-community partnerships transform the student support function of schools to include:

- Universal, comprehensive review of all students
- Personalized plans support learning and thriving
- Intentionally coordinated school and community resources
- Unified and systematic data-informed approach
City Connects: whole child, whole school
City Connects students improve academic test scores

Improvement in MCAS test scores and the closing of the achievement gap

City Connects leads to **reduced absenteeism and dropout**

Less likelihood of chronic absenteeism

50% lower high school dropout rates

*Chronic absenteeism is defined as absent 10% or more days per year
*Students leave City Connects after grade 5

City Connects leads to **positive life outcomes**

- Positive social-emotional outcomes in school
- Higher statewide test scores
- Increased attendance rates in every grade
- Lower high-school dropout rates
- Higher academic performance
- Higher attendance rates
- Lower rates of repeating a grade
- Decreased chronic absenteeism
- More likely to enter/complete post-secondary education

Elementary school → Long-term outcomes → More opportunities for life
Return on Investment

The Center for Benefit Cost Studies of Education at The University of Pennsylvania has analyzed the return on investment of the City Connects system of integrated student support by comparing benefits to costs.

- When accounting for both the cost of implementation and the cost of comprehensive services to which children and families get connected, City Connects produces $3 in benefits for every $1 invested.

- If effective integrated student support were widely implemented, existing investments in children and families could produce triple the benefits.

In a City Connects school, an average of $5,400/student worth of services from community partners are leveraged in support of student wellbeing and readiness to learn, driving outcomes.
Integrated Student Support is Relevant to:

- Child and youth mental health
- Wraparound services
- Academic gaps
- School-Community partnerships
- Community Schools
- Student support improvement
- Efficient use of government funds
Key: Quality

States are advancing on three policy trajectories:

1. Advancing frameworks and best practices
2. Incentivizing the implementation of evidence-based models
3. A hybrid approach
Designed to provide state policymakers with research-informed recommendations and sample language from existing legislation, laws, and frameworks to best promote the effective and efficient implementation of integrated student support.
Key Takeaways

- School-community partnerships are vital to supporting healthy child development and learning
- **Effective approaches** to integration across school-community-and-family **have common features**
- Policymakers can support and incentivize quality implementation and expect accountability for outcomes
- States are moving on 3 trajectories: (1) Best Practices (2) Evidence-Based Models (3) Hybrid
- The **National Guidelines** for Integrated Student Support help define quality
- The Integrated Student Support **State Policy Toolkit** puts the science, best practices, and current legislative language in your hands so you can make strategic choices more likely to benefit kids, families, schools, and communities
Policy Resources

New Integrated Student Support State Policy Toolkit

The Center for Thriving Children: Our Work For Policymakers

The National Guidelines for Integrated Student Support

Building Systems of Integrated Student Support: A Policy Brief for Federal Leaders

Building Systems of Integrated Student Support: A Policy Brief for Local and State Leaders

The Whole Child: Building Systems of Integrated Student support During and After COVID-19

Select Research Publications
Questions?

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