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Coalition for Community Schools



Strengthening
Schools,
Families
and
Communities



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Subject: Coalition for Community Schools Newsletter

Coalition for Community Schools

Welcome to Community Schools Online where we provide bi-monthly updates on developments in the community schools field and the work of the Coalition.

If you have any ideas on what you would like to see featured or if you have other questions, please contact us at <mailto:ccs@iel.org> or call Rebecca Flores at 202.822.8405, ext. 53.

Please forward this e-mail to others in your network and to listservs whose subscribers may be interested in this information. If you are not on our network and wish to subscribe to Community Schools Online, please register at http://www.communityschools.org/Contact_CCS.html or send us your name, title, organization, mail and web address, phone/fax and email address to <mailto:ccs@iel.org>. To unsubscribe, reply to this message and type "DELETE" in the subject line.

We are also sharing this newsletter in several listservs. We know that the work many of us do connects schools, families and communities and thought this information will be useful to you.

In this issue:

- I. THOUGHTS FROM THE COALITION CHAIR
- II. SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HOME-VISIT PROGRAM
- III. 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS
- IV. UPDATE ON ESEA REAUTHORIZATION
- V. PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES
- VI. CALENDAR

- I. THOUGHTS FROM THE COALITION CHAIR

It is an honor to serve as chair of the Coalition for Community Schools. Community schools, I am convinced, are essential for improving the lives of

children and families and strengthening our communities. They not only help students learn better, and learn better how to learn, they also help all community institutions do their jobs better as they work together in ongoing partnerships.

The extraordinary growth of the Coalition from 5 partners to 116 in 2 years is a powerful indicator that the "community school idea" is an idea whose time has come. Our Coalition spans all variety of pre-K through 12 educational organizations, youth development organizations, health and social services agencies, community development organizations, communities of faith, higher educational institutions, United Ways, foundations, government, civic organizations as well as individuals from across the governmental, for profit, and nonprofit sectors. The Coalition also brings together individuals and groups from across the country committed to developing and sustaining community schools in their own communities. The energy and work of these individuals and groups and their common effort to create a national community school movement is inspiring and a cause for optimism that the Coalition will continue to develop and make an increasing contribution to schools and communities.

The year 2000 will be an important and exciting one for the Coalition - national conference next fall, a public education campaign starting this spring, policy forums, field trips, local projects involving Coalition partners, and meetings and discussion groups are some of the activities planned. Thanks to our partners for their hard work and dedication and for the progress we have made. And please spread the word about community schools and forward this newsletter to all your colleagues.

I look forward to our working and learning together in the future. Best wishes for the new millennium.

Ira Harkavy

II. SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HOME-VISIT PROGRAM

One of our partners, the Foundation Consortium in California, tells us of an innovative teacher home-visit program at 13 schools in the Sacramento City Unified School District. It is a great example of how to create strong connections between schools, students, teachers and parents.

Preliminary evaluation results found that schools participating in the project during its first year showed higher increases in tests scores from 1998 to 1999 than schools who did not participate, although differences in test scores could not be specifically tied to home visits. Participating principals report that their "efforts have been rewarded with better student behavior, improved homework quality, and closer, more open relationships with the communities they serve."

Based upon these promising results, the California Assembly approved a \$15 million initiative to expand the program. Now, schools throughout California can apply for state money to pay teachers while they visit students' homes.

For more information on this promising home-visit program, copies of the legislation and the first-year evaluation, please contact Sandi Smith at ACT 916.488.1199 or write to her at 3235 Arden, Sacramento, CA 95825.

III. 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

The Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers has updated their web site <http://www.ed.gov/21stcclc>. This site features a database of all the current grantees, new examples of successful applications, new publications and links.

This month, the website will post the FY 2000 application package -- the quickest way for potential applicants to receive a copy of the application. Information about regional applicant workshops will also be posted. Keep checking the site for local details as they become available.

Speaking of 21st Century grantees, the Department of Education has asked the Coalition to help recruit readers for the next round of 21st Century applications. Expect a letter from the Department in the mail explaining how you can participate!

IV. UPDATE ON ESEA REAUTHORIZATION

When the 106th Congress adjourned for the year, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was still up in the air. Although the House did reauthorize over half of the ESEA, including \$8 billion for the Title I program, it still left important issues like technology and safe-schools program to be addressed next year.

According to Education Week, senators cannot agree on whether or not the bill should contain some version of the "Straight A's legislation - which would dramatically expand flexibility in spending federal education dollars in exchange for heightened accountability guarantees - and how to handle changes to teacher-quality programs." The Senate plans to vote on the ESEA bill in late January or early February.

If you are interested in seeing the text of the ESEA legislation, look at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

V. PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

>>Colleges and Community Groups Helping Low-Income Youth Prepare for College

"The Intentional Community: Colleges and Community Groups Helping Low-Income Youth Prepare for College" summarizes results of a six-year College/Community Partnership Program. The report focuses on the efforts of 24 college/community partnerships to prepare low-income students for

college. To receive a free copy, call the Council for Independent Colleges at 202.466.7230 or download it online at <http://www.cic.edu>

>>Learn and Live Digital Toolkit

Available online, the "Learn and Live Digital Toolkit" features five schools and programs to encourage conversations about educational reform. The film can be seen in 2-5 minute segments at <http://www.glef.org/learnlive/toolkit/toolkit.html>.

>>Free Research Assistance for Nonprofits

A great opportunity lies in a new project called Link, an internet-based matchmaking service that introduces nonprofits with unfulfilled research needs to graduate students who are required to produce theses, term projects and papers as part of their core curricula. The program is currently targeting organizations in the Seattle/Puget Sound region, San Francisco Bay Area and New York City. For more information on how your nonprofit can participate, contact Julie Loughran at Julie@linkresearch.org or by phone at 650.725.5833.

>>Using TANF to Finance Out-of-School Time and Community Initiatives

The Finance Project's October 1999 Strategy Brief, "Using TANF to Finance Out-of-School Time and Community Initiatives" provides an overview of how to utilize funds from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Available online at <http://www.financeproject.org/osthome.htm>.

>>Kidsway, Inc's 2nd Annual Business Plan Competition

Individuals or teams of students may compete for prizes by preparing a business plan for a new or expanding business under the sponsorship of a teacher, youth leader, or home school advisor. A panel of judges consisting of teachers, entrepreneurs, and investors will evaluate the business plans. Winners will be announced May 20, 2000. For more information, see http://www.kidsway.com/kidsway/bus_plan_comp.html.

VI. CALENDAR

>>February 6 -9, 2000

Beyond School Hours III: From Research to Reality
Houston, TX

A conference to advance the expansion of before and after school programs.
For more information, call 1.888.977.5437

>>April 26-29, 2000

Family Resource Coalition of America Conference
Chicago, IL

For more information, send an email to: kiran.vasireddy@frca.org or visit
FRCA's website at: <http://www.frca.org>

>>May 3-6, 2000

National Community Building Network Annual Conference
Los Angeles, CA

Registration begins March 1, 2000. Check out their website
<http://www.ncbn.org>



Coalition for Community Schools <ccs@iel.org>
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Subject: Coalition for Community Schools Newsletter

Coalition for Community Schools

Welcome to the first edition of the Coalition for Community Schools' On-Line Newsletter. We wanted to inform you of the work of the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) in the arena of community schools.

Our goal for the newsletter is to provide bi-monthly updates on developments in the community schools field and the work of the Coalition. As important events related to community schools happen in your community and state, please share the information with us. To ask questions or to receive more information about the topics listed in Community Schools OnLine, contact us at <mailto:ccs@iel.org> or at 202.822.8405, ext. 53.

Please forward this e-mail to others in your network and to listservs whose subscribers may be interested in this information. If you are not on our network and wish to subscribe to the Community Schools Online newsletter, please register at http://www.communityschools.org/Contact_CCS.html or send us your name, title, organization, mail and web address, phone/fax and email address to <mailto:ccs@iel.org>. To unsubscribe, reply to this message and type "DELETE" in the subject line.

- I. Who We Are: Coalition for Community Schools' Vision
- II. Highlights of Key Coalition Activities
- III. New Community School Initiatives
- IV. Federal Funding
- V. Upcoming Events and Conferences
- VI. Publications and Research
- VII. Name our Newsletter!

- I. WHO WE ARE: COALITION FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS' VISION

The Coalition for Community Schools brings together leaders in education, youth development, family support, community development, government and philanthropy to support a vision on community schools that has been emerging in communities across the country:

Using public schools as a hub, community schools bring together many partners to offer a range of supports and opportunities to children, youth, families and communities - before during and after school, seven days a week.

The Coalition believes that schools alone cannot be expected to build the social and developmental foundations young people need to succeed. In many communities, partnerships involving schools and other community organizations and agencies are helping to create community schools that offer supports and opportunities to enable all children and youth to learn and succeed - and to help families and communities thrive. The Coalition for Community Schools plays an important role in strengthening and sustaining these school-community partnerships.

Our mission is to mobilize the resources and capacity of multiple sectors and institutions to create a united movement for community schools. We accomplish this by:

- § Sharing information about successful community school policies, programs and practices;
- § Building broader public understanding and support for community schools;
- § Informing public and private-sector policies in order to strengthen community schools; and
- § Developing sustainable sources of funding for community schools.

We have over 110 partners nation-wide including local and state community school networks, and national organizations. (For a complete listing of partners, see

http://www.communityschools.org/Coalition_Partners_Index.html.) If your organization or community school network is interested in becoming a partner, please join online at our website at http://www.communityschools.org/Coalition_Partners_List.html#Join_Us.

The Coalition has an exciting brochure that outlines our vision and key components of what our partners and we believe create a successful community school. If you would like to receive a copy of our brochure or have a community school event where you would like to distribute it, please forward your request to <<mailto:ccs@iel.org>> or contact Hayin Kim at 202.822.8405, ext. 45.

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY COALITION ACTIVITIES

Public Education Campaign

At a recent Coalition Partners Meeting, the Children's Aid Society, in partnership with the Ad Council of America, announced a three-year national ad campaign on community schools. The campaign's goals are to spread the growing word of community schools and to mobilize parents, policymakers and educators to start and sustain community schools within their communities.

The fact that the Ad Council has chosen community schools for a campaign demonstrates the significant growth of our movement.

The Coalition, along with the Children's Aid Society and the Ad Council, are currently putting together information that will outline strategies for communities to optimize this ad campaign. We will send this to our partners in late January or early February.

Policy

The Coalition is currently looking for examples of local and state policies that support community schools. If you know of any that you would like to share with our partners' nation-wide, please drop us an email at <mailto:ccs@iel.org>.

Research

The research working group of the Coalition is currently collecting data on effectiveness of community schools strategies. We plan to compile this data to help inform key policymakers on the promising work of community schools and would love for your research to be a part of it. Send any relevant information to <mailto:ccs@iel.org>.

Coalition Website

The Coalition for Community Schools has a website <http://www.communityschools.org>. We hope the website serves as a resource for everyone interested in community schools. Shortly, we will open the Community Schools Dialogue section on the website. (http://www.communityschools.org/Community_School_Dialogue.html). We plan to direct discussions or questions on issues we raise in our on-line newsletter to this site so that we don't clutter people's e-mail boxes. We also plan to host "Thematic Discussions" with experts.

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see us discuss on our website, please forward any ideas to <mailto:ccs@iel.org>.

III. NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL INITIATIVES: Molly Stark Elementary School, Vermont and Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN), Portland, Oregon.

Community school efforts keep emerging around the country. Here are two good examples, both with excellent websites.

The Lt. Governor of Vermont, Doug Racine, convened a conference on "Creating Full-Service Schools" in October. The Molly Stark Elementary School in Bennington was featured as a Vermont version to integrate education and other programs for children and families. Early signs of success of the programs include:

- § Significant increase in the New Standard Reading Assessment
- § 74% of second graders met or exceeded the standard in the Vermont State

Developmental Reading Assessment

- § Absenteeism declines from 6.5% to 5.6% in one year
- § Significant decline in physical and verbal aggression
- § Only 3 student (down from 59) were not represented by at least one parent at parent/teacher conferences this past fall.

For more information, please see: <http://www.svsu.org/mollystark/molly.htm> or <http://www.state.vt.us/educ/conf5.htm>

Multnomah County, the City of Portland, the City of Gresham, the State of Oregon, and the school districts decided to work together to develop a long-term strategy for extending the school day and coordinating services more efficiently in the cities' and County's public school districts. From this, Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) initiative was created. It is innovative partnership between local and state governments, school districts and community organizations to transform public schools.

For more information, please email the SUN initiative at [<mailto:sun.schools@co.multnomah.or.us>](mailto:sun.schools@co.multnomah.or.us) or check out their website at <http://www.sunschools.org>

IV. FEDERAL FUNDING

New Grant Awards

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative project sites have been named. These projects are bringing mental health, law enforcement and education together. We encourage everyone to see if your community received this grant at <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/09-1999/sstoc.html>. If your community was selected, make sure that your school district has a coherent community school strategy and governance structure in place.

Nearly 100 school districts received funds under the Safe and Drug Free Middle School Coordinators Program. This is an opportunity to coordinate efforts to reduce violence and substance abuse. This program should be integrated with community school strategies. Check on whether this program is operating in you community, <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/09-1999/coord.html>

New Appropriations

There will be an increase of \$250 million in the appropriation for 21st Century Community Learning Centers this year. Community school leaders in all sectors should be working together to secure these funds as a part of a comprehensive community school strategy. See <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OER/21stCCLC>

V. UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

April 26-29, 2000

Family Resource Coalition of America Conference
Chicago, IL. There will be a track on "family supportive schools."

For more information, please send an email to:
<mailto:kiran.vasireddy@frca.org> or visit FRCA's website at:
<http://www.frca.org>

VI. PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

Understanding the Education Standards Movement

Everyone needs to understand the education standards movement. The 1999 National Education Summit Briefing Book gives a great overview for community school practitioners. Download a copy at <http://www.summit99.org/>.

NASSP Bulletin on Community/Full-Service Schools

The National Association of Secondary School Principals' (NASSP) December issue of Bulletin explores issues pertaining to community/full-service schools. It includes a complete copy of the Coalition's vision statement and articles on the roles of principals in working collaboratively to solve problems and partnerships between city schools/city university. If you would like to order a copy of the Bulletin for \$15 plus S&H, please contact NASSP at 703.860.0200.

Program Evaluations in the Youth Field

The American Youth Policy Forum recently issued a report, detailing summaries of program evaluations in the youth field, entitled "MORE Things that DO Make a Difference for Youth: A Compendium of Evaluations of Youth Programs and Practices." It includes positive findings from 46 youth interventions based on 64 evaluations. To order, please contact Donna Walker James at the American Youth Policy Forum, 1836 Jefferson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20036, 202.775.9731.

Video on a New Form of Mental Health in Schools

The Children's Aid Society and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry have created a video on successful practices in child psychiatry in schools. If you would like to receive a free copy of the video and a compendium book on the Columbia-Teen Screen Suicide Prevention Program, please contact the Children's Aid Society at 212.949.4800.

Research Projects on Family Functioning/Child Development and Well-Being

The Research Forum on Children, Families and the New Federalism operates a database and website with summaries of research projects about interventions specifically intended to affect family functioning and child development and well-being. The studies also identify income security interventions in which similar effects are measured. The website address is <http://www.researchforum.org>. If you have any questions or comments,

you can reach them at <mailto:info@researchforum.org> or call Ellen Winn at 212.304.7132.

VII. Name our Online Newsletter!

We are currently looking for a name for our Online Newsletter that captures the exciting growth of community schools and the exchange of ideas and information we hope to bring to you through this newsletter.

THE PRIZE: The lucky winner will be able to attend the Coalition for Community Schools' conference in October 2000 for FREE!!! We will waive the winner's registration fee. (More conference information to come in the near future!)

If you have any ideas on a name for our newsletter, please send them to <mailto:ccs@iel.org>. Thanks!

Message Sent To: _____