



Transforming Schools ★ Revitalizing Neighborhoods

The concept of Community Learning Centers began in 2002 with a \$1 billion Facilities Master Plan approved by taxpayers to construct new school buildings. CPS engaged a cross section of stakeholders called the Local School Decision Making Committee, (community leaders, parents, school staff, neighborhood non-profit groups and businesses), to develop a shared vision for each new building and to plan for partnerships and programs that would meet needs of students, families and communities. This plan became the blueprint for the design of each new CPS school as a CLC.

Over the past ten years, this CLC model has drawn national attention for successfully engaging community partnerships in school buildings. CLCs offer health services, counseling, afterschool programs, nutrition classes, parent/family engagement programs, early childhood education, career and college access services, youth development activities, mentoring and arts programming. The Board of Education has implemented a policy that all district school buildings be CLCs and has developed written guidelines for the establishment of partnerships. To date, 36 CLCs have full-time Resource Coordinators and CPS continues to make CLCs a district priority.

Cincinnati Public Schools Community Learning Centers (CLCs) serve as hubs for community services, providing a system of integrated partnerships that promote academic excellence and offer recreational, educational, social, health, civic and cultural opportunities for students, families and community.

The goal of CLCs is to support student achievement, revitalize neighborhoods and maximize the community's return on its investment in public schools. Each CLC includes a full-time Resource Coordinator who knows the needs of the school, families and community. Resource Coordination is key to the success of the CLC, as partnerships must be recruited, developed and supported to meet the individual needs of students, impact school success and reflect community interest. CLC partners provide programs and services that support attainment of school goals and are affordable, accessible and sustainable.

CLCs engage the community through a variety of strategies, including:

- 1) School Governance and Leadership (Local School Decision-Making Committee)
- 2) Door-to-door campaigns to inform and solicit support
- 3) Community events, such as student performances, health fairs, etc.
- 4) Service Learning projects and community service
- 5) Mentor and tutor recruitment campaigns
- 6) Community Conversations with District Leadership at different school sites
- 7) Attendance and participation in Community Council Meetings

More than 600 CLC community partners have provided services valued at over \$1 million dollars to students and families. These partnerships are integrated and aligned to school goals, resulting in improved academic outcomes for CPS students. For more information on Cincinnati Public Schools Community Learning Centers, please visit our website at www.cincinnati.org or contact Julie Doppler, CLC Coordinator at (513) 363-0684 or dopplej@cps-k12.org.