



**COMMUNITY SCHOOL BASICS WEBINAR:  
GETTING STARTED!  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016  
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM**

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Vice President, The Children's Aid Society  
Director, National Center for Community Schools

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Director of Regional Initiatives, The Children's Aid Society  
National Center for Community Schools



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**AGENDA**

- What is a Community School?
- Conducting a Needs Assessment
- Other Core Concepts related to Effective Community Schools
- New York State Foundation Aid & the Community Schools Set-Aside
- Contact Information
- Questions & Answers



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What is a Community School?

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**A Strategy, Not a Program**

A strategy for organizing the resources of the school and community around student success...

Pat Harvey, Former Superintendent  
St. Paul Public Schools



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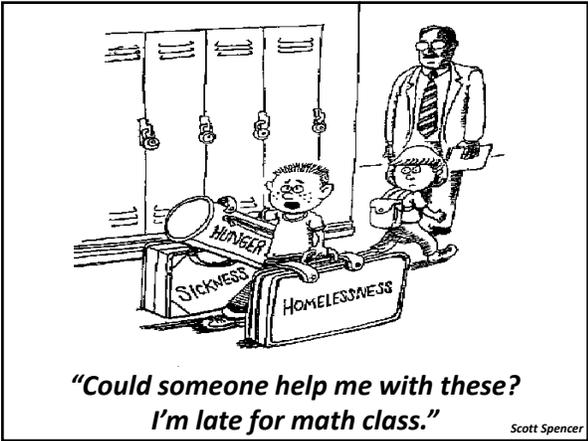
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## What is a Community School?



A community school is both a **place** and a **set of partnerships** between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities leads to **improved student learning, stronger families** and **healthier communities**.

Coalition for Community Schools



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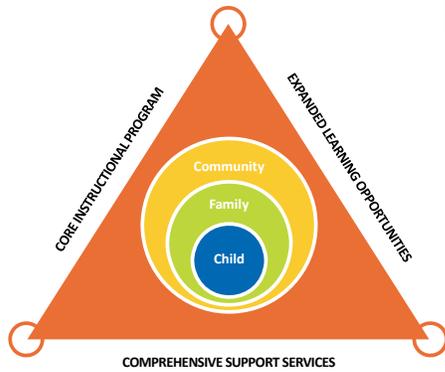
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## CAS Developmental Triangle



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## Several well-known models:



- ◆ Beacons
- ◆ Bridges to Success
- ◆ Children's Aid Society Community Schools
- ◆ Communities in Schools
- ◆ Healthy Start
- ◆ Polk Brothers Full-Service Schools
- ◆ Schools of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Yale)
- ◆ University-Assisted Community Schools



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## Underlying Research Base



- ◆ **Making the Most of Non-School Time**
  - Reginald Clark
  - Milbrey McLaughlin
  - Deborah Vandell
- ◆ **Whole Child Approach/ Application of Developmental Knowledge**
  - Jacquelynne Eccles
  - James Comer
- ◆ **Parents' Active Role**
  - Epstein (six types)
  - Henderson and Mapp
- ◆ **School Improvement**
  - Anthony Bryk *et al.*
- ◆ **Health-Learning Links**
  - Charles Basch
- ◆ **Consistent Adult Guidance & Support**
  - Werner/Benard
  - Fritz Ianni

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## What Makes a Community School Different from a Traditional School?

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## Strategic Elements



- ◆ Full-Time Community School Director
- ◆ Systematic Needs Assessment
- ◆ Strategic Partnerships (Aligned with Needs Assessment and Coordinated w/ Each Other)
- ◆ Integration of SOS with Core Instruction
- ◆ Site-Based Governance w/ Partners Integrated
- ◆ Data-Driven Decision Making w/ Shared Accountability for Results

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### Typical Program Components



- ◆ After-School and Summer Enrichment
- ◆ Parent/Family Engagement
- ◆ Adult Education
- ◆ Medical, Dental, Mental Health and Social Services
- ◆ Early Childhood
- ◆ Community and Economic Development

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### Getting Started

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### School Readiness



- ◆ *Principal leadership:* Bryk's research on school improvement points to the importance of the principal as the driver of change, using an inclusive leadership style
- ◆ *School leadership team:* The community school strategy should be fully integrated into the school's comprehensive education plan, with understanding and buy-in from the SLT (including teachers and parents)

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# Conducting a Needs Assessment

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## What is a Needs Assessment?

A systematic process used to understand and create a profile of a community school's needs that will inform and drive decision-making.



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### Needs Assessment & Resource Inventory

A Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is light green and labeled 'Current Needs'. The right circle is blue and labeled 'Provided Services'. The overlapping area in the center is a darker shade of green. The circles have a fine grid pattern.

The Children's Aid Society

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Overview of the  
Needs Assessment Toolkit  
(available at [nccs.org](http://nccs.org))

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### Needs Assessment Toolkit

1. Getting Started
2. Archival Data Review
3. Initial Analysis
4. Surveys
5. Key Informant Interviews
6. Focus Groups
7. Final Analysis
8. Reporting

The Children's Aid Society

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## Step 1: Getting Started



### Actions

- ◆ Convene the Advisory Council
- ◆ Revisit the Advisory Council's mission/purpose and consider whether to add members
- ◆ Conduct a Readiness Self-Assessment

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## Step 2: Archival Data Review



### Actions

- ◆ Gather and record key information from existing data sources as-is, and manipulated data sources
- ◆ Complete the Archival Data Collection Worksheet
- ◆ Complete Resource Inventory

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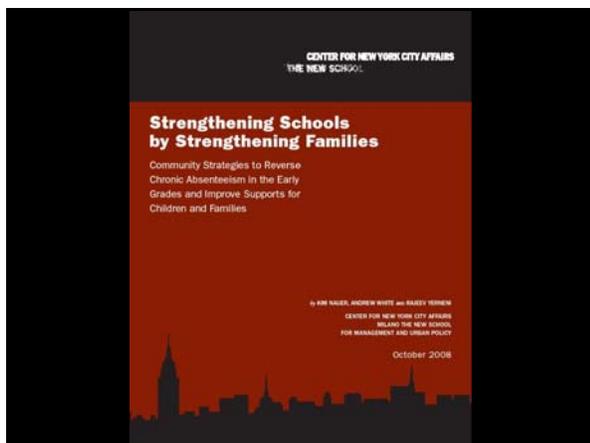
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### Step 4: Surveys



#### Actions

- ◆ Develop surveys for key constituent groups: students, parents and teachers (required)
- ◆ Administer the surveys
- ◆ Compile survey results

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### Step 5: Key Stakeholder Interviews



#### Actions

- ◆ Conduct Key Informant Interviews
- ◆ Summarize findings

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### Step 6: Focus Groups



#### Actions

- ◆ Conduct Focus Groups with key constituents: students, parents and teachers are required
- ◆ Summarize findings

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## Step 7: Final Analysis



### Actions

- ◆ Convene Advisory Council to review summaries of surveys, interviews and focus groups and determine priority need areas for the next 12 months
- ◆ Begin to recommend solutions for how to address the needs

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## Step 8: Reporting



### Actions

- ◆ Write Need Assessment Report
- ◆ Disseminate Report

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## Phasing



	Weeks 1&2	Weeks 3&4	Weeks 5&6	Weeks 7&8	Weeks 9&10	Weeks 11&12
Getting Started	█					
Archival Data Review	█					
Initial Analysis	█	█				
Surveys		█	█			
Stakeholder Interviews		█	█	█	█	█
Focus Groups			█	█		
Final Analysis					█	
Reporting						█

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# Other Core Concepts

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### Critical Capacities

Effective community schools continually develop a set of four key capacities:

1. Comprehensiveness
2. Collaboration
3. Coherence
4. Commitment



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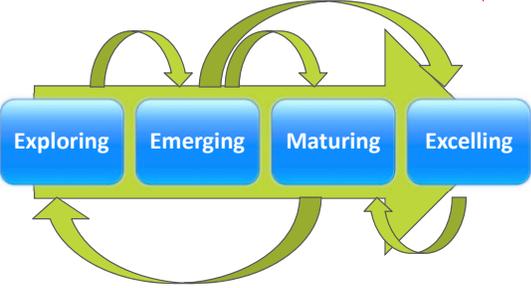
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### Stages of Development in a Community School



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## What is Foundation Aid?



- ◆ Primary state funding formula for general operating support
- ◆ \$16.5 billion total statewide in 2016-17
- ◆ Increased by \$630 million last year, including \$100 million in Community Schools Set-aside



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## Community Schools Set-aside



- ◆ Designated districts are required to spend a portion of their 2016-17 Foundation Aid increase on Community Schools
- ◆ Set-aside funds are paid at the same time as districts' general aid payments.
- ◆ Expenses are reported by your Business Official and Superintendent
  - Guidance Document:  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/CommunitySchoolsSetAsideGuidance.pdf>
  - District-by-district Community Schools Set-Aside:  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/DistrictSetAside201617CommunitySchools.pdf>



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## For More Information:



- ◆ [www.childrensaidsociety.org](http://www.childrensaidsociety.org)
- ◆ [www.nccs.org](http://www.nccs.org)
- ◆ <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/expandedlearningops/CSGI/home.html>

For a downloadable copy of our 2011 book, *Building Community Schools: A Guide for Action*, go to [http://bit.ly/nccs\\_bcs](http://bit.ly/nccs_bcs)

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