



**PARTNERSHIP FOR  
CHILDREN & YOUTH**



**Winter 2017**

**REPORT TO THE  
COMMUNITY**



# THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS APPROACH

ENSURING THAT ALL CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensuring that all children have access to a high quality education is a complex challenge. It requires that we look not just at what students receive in the classroom, but also how they are supported and nurtured physically, emotionally, socially, and academically. We know that hungry children can't concentrate well, that a lack of health care causes unnecessary absences, and that challenges at home can make focusing in the classroom difficult. Addressing these and other challenges, in addition to nurturing the potential of every child, requires that we draw on the resources and talents not just of educators, but of families and community-based organizations as well.

Community schools offer a proven, comprehensive approach to educating the whole child. In this approach, the whole community aligns its expertise and resources behind student success, which includes employing the following basic principles:

- Understand and meet the needs of the 'whole child' (as part of a family and a community) – developmental, physical, emotional, social, and academic
- Improve access to a wide range of supports and services for students and families by delivering them at (or linked to) school sites
- Integrate and destigmatize supports and services, such as meal programs and mental health support, as part of the everyday functioning of schools
- Build authentic, high-functioning partnerships between school districts, local government, and community-based organizations – so that financial and human resources are maximized and leveraged for the greatest impact

PCY is working to promote the community school approach, by helping school districts and their partners understand how effective community schools work and connecting them to information, examples and technical assistance. Last year we launched the California Community Schools Network, which allows communities across our state to share information and access support in the interest of more effectively educating students, particularly those from under-resourced communities.

PCY strongly believes that community schools are one of the most effective strategies for meeting the challenge of educating every child, regardless of neighborhood, family income level, or background.

To learn more, go to <http://partnerforchildren.org/what-we-do/community-schools/>

# PCY IN PRINT

In 2016, PCY released groundbreaking standards for expanded learning in housing communities, a guide to financing community schools, and research on the need for expanded learning providers and classroom educators to speak the same language when it comes to social-emotional learning. You can always find our latest publications in the resource section of our website.



## **Quality Standards for Expanded Learning in Public & Affordable Housing**

We brought together a diverse group of housing agencies and educators to meet an ambitious goal: establish standards for quality expanded learning programs that speak to the unique needs and challenges of providing services to youth in public and affordable housing communities. The resulting standards are a huge step forward, offering guidance and best practices for expanded learning in housing communities. [www.partnerforchildren.org/housed-quality-standards](http://www.partnerforchildren.org/housed-quality-standards)



## **Community Schools Financing Guide**

PCY created "Community School Financing" to offer guidance learned from five communities who opened their doors to show us, with sample budgets, how they financed their community school efforts, even in the midst of the recession.

[www.partnerforchildren.org/community-schools-financing-guide](http://www.partnerforchildren.org/community-schools-financing-guide)



## **Finding Common Ground**

This brief provides language and strategies to support alignment between K-12 and expanded learning programs, by cross-walking key priorities and initiatives in California that impact social-emotional learning. It finds common ground amid these initiatives and provides San Francisco Unified School District as a case study to illustrate how to operationalize this alignment. [www.partnerforchildren.org/common-ground](http://www.partnerforchildren.org/common-ground)

# 2016 BY THE NUMBERS

- 616** participants in PCY professional development programs
- 2,148** people on record supporting an increase in ASES Daily Rate
- 25,930** unique page views on the PCY Website
- 170** members of the Community Schools Network
- 24** housing agencies in the HousEd network and cohort
- 250** hours of coaching for each district participating in Social-Emotional Learning PLC
- 84%** surveyed districts included summer programming in their LCAPs for 2015-2018
- 1,800** hours of professional development for staff supporting youth services in housing
- 9** school districts participating in Social-Emotional Learning PLC
- 24** CA Legislators took action to support an ASES increase
- 27%** increase in social media engagement
- 131** organizations participating in Summer Matters convenings
- 320** unique organizations advocating for an increase in the ASES Daily Rate

## PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Partnership for Children & Youth (PCY) is a California-based advocacy and capacity-building organization focused on providing access to high quality learning opportunities for underserved youth. For over 15 years, we have worked to support and influence the people, organizations, and systems responsible for educating and supporting children and families in under-resourced communities. Through training program providers, building relationships between school districts and community-based organizations, and advocating for sound public policies, we work to ensure that all children have equitable access to expanded learning opportunities and community schools.

**Our mission:** PCY bridges policy and practice to support healthy development and school success for children and youth in under-resourced communities. We ensure that people, organizations, and systems work together in effectively serving California's young people.

**Our vision:** All children and youth in California have the supports and opportunities they need and deserve to reach their greatest potential in school and life.



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