

Community Schools: *Building a stronger Erie, one student at a time.*

✘ WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SCHOOL?

Community schools are places where resources from the community are used to improve student success. Community schools offer programs that focus on health and social services for students and parents. Rather than sending students to services throughout the city and county, these services are brought into the school. The schools become the center of the area they serve, with access before, during and after school hours, including the summer months. As needs of students and families change, so do the supports offered at community schools.

✘ WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A COMMUNITY SCHOOL DIRECTOR?

The Community School Director (CSD) is a strategic thought partner responsible for executing the coordination and alignment of resources within a Community School to achieve specific educational goals. The role of a CSD is complex and requires a dynamic person who can effectively navigate and interconnect multiple systems to achieve success for children and families. The CSD is accountable to the principal and the community school leadership team. They lead the development and implementation of a comprehensive community school action plan that guides all of the partnerships and resources brought into the school, focused on removing barriers to learning for economically disadvantaged students.

✘ WHAT IS UNITED WAY'S ROLE?

The Community School model uses the collective impact framework, a structured approach to address complex social issues, making collaboration work across multiple sectors and organizations. The framework requires: a common agenda; shared measurements; mutually reinforcing activities; continuous communication; and, a “backbone organization”. The backbone organization must have a staff with a specific set of skills who plan, manage and support the initiative, which in this case are the community schools. The expectation that collaboration can occur without a supporting infrastructure (backbone) is one of the most frequent reasons why collective impact fails, according to Stanford Social Innovation Review.

[LEARN MORE AT UNITEDWAYERIE.ORG/COMMUNITYSCHOOLS](https://www.unitedwayerie.org/communityschools)



Higher academic proficiencies
 Improved positive behavior
 Higher attendance rates
**Better supported families
 and neighborhoods!**

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

A STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE OF UNITED WAY OF ERIE COUNTY

- Food Bank
- Clothing Closet
- Basic Needs Partnerships
- On-site Health Services
- Quality Early Childhood Education
- Pre-K to K Transition
- Early Literacy Skills
- Behavioral Health
- Social Supports
- Mentoring and Tutoring Programs

- School Resources & Supplies
- Qualified Teachers & Staff
- Engaged Administration
- Arts & Music Enrichment Programs
- Safe Routes To and From School
- Gang Awareness & Prevention
- Engaged Neighbors
- Engaged Parent Groups
- Open & Strong Communications
- Adult Education Programs & Resources



THIS GRAPHIC REPRESENTS POTENTIAL RESOURCES THAT CAN BE BROUGHT IN TO A COMMUNITY SCHOOL. EACH COMMUNITY SCHOOL MAY LOOK DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON ITS NEEDS ASSESSMENT.