

2023



COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING<sup>™</sup>  
CONFERENCE

ACTNOW

Afterschool for Children & Teens

# How We ALL Succeed: A Proven Equity Strategy for Schools



# Welcoming Activity

*College and  
career  
readiness is like  
this image  
because...*

# ACT NOW

Afterschool for Children & Teens



# Agenda

- ▶ Welcome/intro/norms
- ▶ What is a **community school**?
- ▶ Community school model + college & career readiness
- ▶ Using the model
- ▶ Questions & closing

## Norms

- ▶ Take care of yourself
- ▶ Engage
- ▶ Put ideas on the table
- ▶ Give space for others

## Speaker Intro



**Lesley Rivers**

she/her

Program Coordinator

GO BUCKS!



**Mia Xia**

she/her

Policy and Communications  
Intern

Go 'Cats!



**Michael Guilmette**

he/him

Policy and Communications  
Intern

Roll 'Rooms!



**Amy Ji**

she/her

Policy and Communications  
Intern

Skating through life  
professionally

All youth across IL deserve access to **high-quality, affordable** extended learning day programs.



Newsletter Join Form



# 2.

## What is a Community School?



# Think/Pair/Share

What is something you are **already doing** that could be considered part of this model?



# 3.

## How Do Community Schools Prep for College and Career Readiness?

# Community Schools are a site of **stability, kinship, resource distribution, civic engagement, and social connection.**

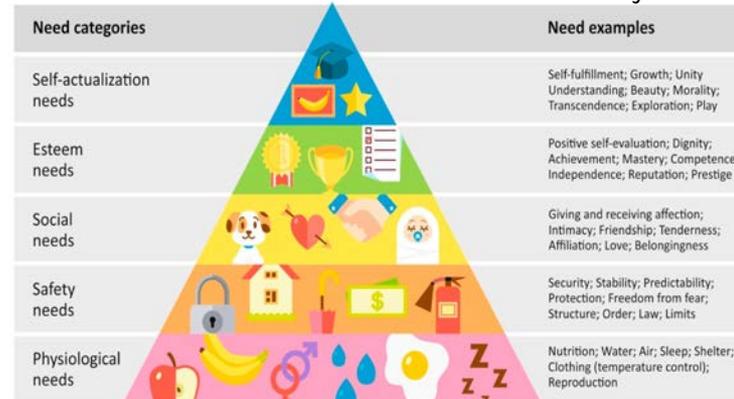
Recent reports on the impacts of COVID-19-based school closures reiterate the undeniably essential role of community schools:

Over **1.1 million** families living in poverty lost access routine child care during working hours

**13 million** children experiencing hunger encountered disruptions in critical food source

Nearly **1.5 million** children experiencing homelessness could not reach stable, reliable networks of social workers and healthcare providers

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



# The absence of long-standing community schools have **detrimental consequences** on youth development:

**Increased experiences of stress and anxiety** due to chaotic transition/relocation processes into new school ecosystems (both online and in-person)

and

**Severance of crucial support networks** (teachers, adult mentors, peers) that provide a point of connection for students and their families

Result in...



**Disruptions in learning & poorer academic achievement**

**Decreased access to & utilization of community resources and services**

**Loss of school as a safe space for learning, healing, & engagement**

**Increased mistrust & resentment towards social institutions**

**Manifestation & entrenchment of structural inequities in education**

# Community Schools equip students with the necessary **social-emotional skills** to succeed in college, future careers, and beyond.

Improved teamwork and collaboration in various social settings



Willingness to ask for help when needed



Strengthening feelings of belonging & introducing opportunities for growth and connection



Persevering & building resilience



Having compassion and empathy for others



# Student outcomes are strongly determined by **family engagement**

Family involvement has a positive relationship with

- ▶ higher GPAs and scores,
- ▶ enrollment in more challenging academic programs,
- ▶ more credits earned,
- ▶ better attendance,
- ▶ improved behavior, and
- ▶ better social skills and adaptation to school

Source: National Center for Family & Community Connections with Schools

Community schools recognize that  
**all families**  
want their children to do well

# Community schools **involve and support families** in many ways

Empower families to take charge in their child's education



Provide services to support and develop the education and careers of families



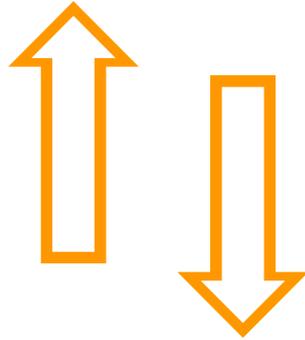
Create a structure of shared power between families, school staff, and community members



Develop culturally responsive school strategies that address youth and family needs and circumstances

## Family poverty status is the best indicator of **educational attainment**

As the poverty level of a neighborhood increases...



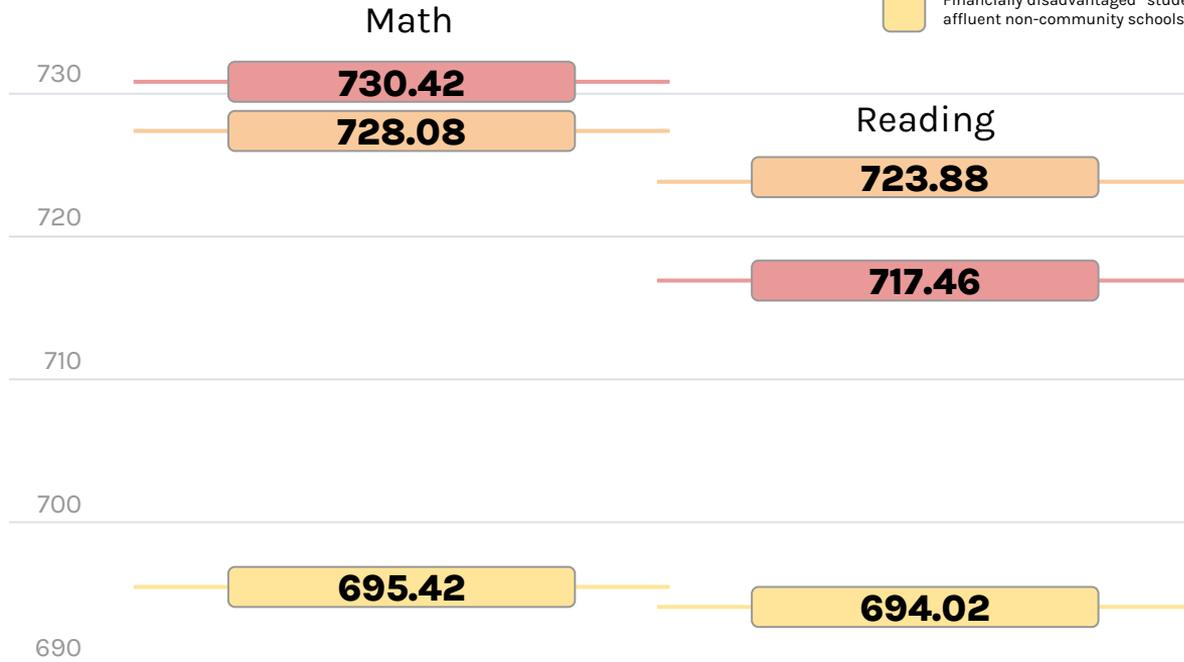
...student achievement decreases.

Source: Center for American Progress

## How do community schools create an **equitable** education system?

## Student Achievement in Union Public Schools

- Financially disadvantaged\* students at community schools
- Non-financially disadvantaged\* students at affluent non-community schools
- Financially disadvantaged\* students at affluent non-community schools



Source: Adams, "The Community School Effect."

\*Adams uses "low-income" and "non-low-income"

# Think/Pair/Share

How can this model **equitably** support preparing for CCR for ALL learners?

Each table/group should come up with 1 example and share with the room.

# 4.

**How Can You Use  
This Model to  
Help Students  
Prepare for the  
Future?**



# College and Career Readiness in **Afterschool**

What are possible services or programs that would prep for this?



## Pick A **Pillar**

- ▶ EXPANDED AND ENRICHED LEARNING TIME
- ▶ FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- ▶ INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS



## Example Programs

### EXPANDED AND ENRICHED LEARNING TIME

Afterschool program that partners with a local college or university. Allow youth to begin seeing themselves at college

During afterschool/summer, take field trips to technical colleges to expose students to other careers.

Career fair/day in afterschool/summer

### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Guest speakers/presenters from local industry leaders/large employers

Invite families to a class on how to apply for federal financial aid/college

Hold a transition class for families and their youth on life post-HS

### INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS

College/career counselors embedded at the school

Consider Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Are your students fed/clothed/housed? If not, they cannot begin to think about CCR. Meet those needs first.

## Discussion Question

Take the time to discuss in your small groups.

What are possible programs or services that would prep for college and future careers?



# Example Programs

## EXPANDED AND ENRICHED LEARNING TIME

Afterschool program that partners with a local college or university. Allow youth to begin seeing themselves at college

During afterschool/summer, take field trips to technical colleges to expose students to other careers.

Career fair/day in afterschool/summer

## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Guest speakers/presenters from local industry leaders/large employers

Invite families to a class on how to apply for federal financial aid/college

Hold a transition class for families and their youth on life post-HS

## INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS

College/career counselors embedded at the school

Consider Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs. Are your students fed/clothed/housed? If not, they cannot begin to think about CCR. Meet those needs first.

### What are possible programs or services that would prep for college and future careers?





Questions?  
Use the Padlet!



# Optimistic Closure

*My next step is...*

# Thank you!



Lesley Rivers  
[riversl@actnowillinois.org](mailto:riversl@actnowillinois.org)  
312-273-8252