



A program supported by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

What is the Hartford Community Schools Initiative?

A public-private partnership developed to help close the Hartford-suburban education gap. Partners are Hartford Public Schools, the City of Hartford Mayor's Office (including Hartford Office for Young Children and Office for Youth Services), Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. The principal funder is the Hartford Foundation, which has committed \$3.1 million to the initiative over three years. All community schools receive training and implementation coaching through The Children's Aid Society.

What is a community school?

Built around a strong instructional core, community schools remain open well beyond the hours of a regular school day – before and after school, into the evening, even weekends, and throughout the summer – to offer an array of educational, cultural, medical and social services for the entire family. A nonprofit agency coordinates the services.

Why does Hartford need community schools?

The achievement gap between Hartford and suburban students is the largest in the nation. A new system of high-quality, high-performing schools is needed to help close the gap. The partnership conducted an extensive review of the concept. A study of more than 40 major community school models across the country shows gains in student attendance, academic achievement, parent involvement, safety, and improved student-teacher relationships.

What schools and nonprofits are involved?

Five Hartford schools are involved: Burr Elementary School, Bellizzi Middle School, Core Knowledge Academy at Milner School, Hartford Middle Magnet School, and The Academy for Latino Studies at Burns School. Three nonprofit agencies are involved: COMPASS Youth Collaborative, The Village for Families & Children, and Catholic Charities.

What will community schools offer?

Over time, it is expected that all community schools' services, supports and opportunities will include before-school, school day, extended-day and extended-year programs, academic support, academic enrichment, athletic, cultural and other enrichment experiences, family wellness, medical, dental, mental health, youth employment, and social services.

How will the initiative proceed?

It is expected the Hartford Community Schools Initiative will occur slowly through carefully measured increments over several years. Each school will be built around a strong instructional core but the composition and scope of each of school's programs and services are expected to vary depending on local needs and resources.

How will success be measured?

Evaluation will be conducted by the OMG Center for Collaborative Learning, an independent, nonprofit research and consulting organization. OMG Center works across the country for clients in the philanthropic, nonprofit and government sectors. Since its establishment in 1988, OMG has been a leading force in philanthropic evaluation.

For more information

Contact Sandra J. Ward, director, Hartford Community Schools Initiative, at 860-548-1888, x1016 or sward@hfpg.org, or visit www.hfpg.org/communitieschools

The Hartford Community Schools Partnership consists of:

Hartford Public Schools

Hartford Public Schools is a system of high performing, distinctive schools of choice. Hartford's school system exists to provide all students with access to and participation in the global economy through attainment of the academic standards of the State of Connecticut and readiness for post-secondary education. For more information, visit www.hartfordschools.org.

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region, dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents. The Foundation receives gifts from thousands of generous individuals and families, and last year, awarded grants of more than \$27 million to a broad range of area nonprofit organizations. For more information about the Hartford Foundation, visit www.hfpg.org or call 860-548-1888. For more information about the Hartford Community Schools Initiative, visit www.hfpg.org/communitieschools.

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut is a nonprofit organization that has been raising resources to meet critical needs and create lasting change in our area since 1924. It is one of nearly 1,300 autonomous United Ways in the United States. It is the largest of the 15 United Ways in Connecticut and second largest in New England. It serves 40 towns throughout central and northeastern Connecticut, helping to ensure that children are ready to succeed in school and in life, that families are financially stable, and that a safety net of services is available to anyone in need. For more information, call 860-493-6800 or visit www.unitedwayinc.org

City of Hartford Office for Youth Services

The Office for Youth Services works with key stakeholders in the City to address the needs of all Hartford youth, focusing on coordination, capacity building and strategic partnerships to: connect youth at-significant risk to formal systems of support; ensure the academic success and engagement in school and community of youth through quality out-of-school time opportunities; and strengthen the responsiveness, accountability, and coordination of the youth services system through technical assistance and capacity building. For more information, call 860-757-9880 or visit www.hartford.gov.