

Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership Overview DRAFT

The Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership (MCSP) is a strategy implemented by Milwaukee Public Schools and United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County to transform the way a school interacts with its students, their families and the surrounding community to better support the holistic needs of a child.

Community schools are a model to better engage and align resources centered on the self-identified, real-time needs of communities. This strategy places the focus on the whole child, with the understanding that a child belongs to a family, and that family lives and interacts within a larger community. This partnership works to develop authentic relationships between families, schools and the wider community to reorganize resources to impact academics, youth development, family support, health and social services, family and community engagement, and community development.

Schools that are a part of the MCSP may have different focuses and activities to improve their schools and communities, but all share core characteristics:

- A shared vision that integrates into the work of the school and all partners.
- Demonstrated long-term commitment and shared ownership as evidence by a partnership agreement signed by the school, the district, and the lead partner agency.
- A full-time community school coordinator hired by a non-profit partner and placed in the school to assess, align, and support programs and resources to achieve the shared vision.
- Local decision making regarding the shared vision and priorities of the community school. This decision making happens through a full functioning School Governance Council, facilitated by the community school coordinator in partnership with school.
- Use of expert and public knowledge to inform the shared vision and local decisions. This knowledge is obtained through implementation of the MCSP Scan, a multi-component tool that combines academic, health, and safety data with an asset map and input from students, school staff, parents and community members.
- Cultural relevance within and outside of the school day that responds to the self-identities of students, parents, school staff and community members.
- A focus on equity that permeates all activities of the community school to ensure that students, parents, school staff and community members all have the same opportunities and access to resources to help them succeed.

Similar to the core characteristics, all MCSP schools measure overall success with the same outcomes, though individual schools also set goals based on specific priorities. The common, short-term outcomes of success include:

- students attend school consistently;
- students are actively involved in learning and the community;
- families are actively involved in their children's education;
- families increasingly have their basic needs met;
- communities are increasingly safer; and
- communities begin to view school as a community-owned asset.

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As an implementation strategy, it is necessary for the MCSP to have strong partners at a community-wide level to help provide a vision for implementation and alignment to other efforts to best help all children succeed.

MCSP Implementation Partners:

- MPS
- UWGMWC

MCSP Key Partners:

Beyond the Bell
Boys and Men of Color
Brighter Futures Initiative
City of Milwaukee
Coming Together Partnership
Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board
Milwaukee Arts Education Initiative
Milwaukee Black Male Achievement Committee
Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council
Milwaukee Continuum of Care
Milwaukee Education Partnership
Milwaukee Food Council
Milwaukee Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families
Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force
Milwaukee Succeeds
Milwaukee Teacher's Education Association
Milwaukee Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative
Milwaukee Workforce Funders Alliance
Schools and Communities United
United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee
Youth Violence Prevention Initiative