Organizing for Community Schools
Competencies in this session

- Organizing
- Advocacy
- Leading Our Professions
Session Outcomes

• The content from this session can be used in the following ways in your current position/role:
  – Mobilizing your members and community allies to support community schools
  – Developing policy and messaging plans that will be effective in community school organizing for your local area or state
Community Schools leverage public school facilities to become hubs of educational, recreational, cultural, health and civic partnerships, which optimize the conditions for learning and catalyze the revitalization of the community.
How do Community Schools Achieve Great Results?

★ Community Schools employ a 5 point strategy

1. Strengthened curriculum
2. Improved student assessments that help teachers teach.
3. Wrap-around supports such as health care, eye care and social and emotional services.
4. Positive discipline practices such as restorative justice.
5. Transformational parent and community engagement
Charter Student Enrollment

- 2000: 500,000
- 2004: 1,000,000
- 2008: 1,500,000
- 2014: 3,000,000

Unite, Inspire, Lead
Empowering Educators for Success
Enrollment Trends

- 43 school districts 20%+ charter
  - New Orleans (91%+),
  - Milwaukee (21% - 26k in vouchers – 40%+)
  - DC (44%),
  - Cleveland, (39%+),
  - San Antonio (26%+),
  - Detroit (55%+),
  - St. Louis (25%+),
  - Albany (26%+),
  - Philadelphia (30%+)
Despite low market share nationally, charter schools have achieved significant market share in major cities.

Many of the nation’s largest school districts have more than 10 percent of students in charter schools.
The Education-Industry Complex

**Think Tanks**
- Center for Ed Reform
- Education Sector
- EdVoice

**Advocacy**
- BAEO
- Dems For Ed Reform
- Stand for Children

**Facility Financing**
- Local Initiatives Support Corp.
- Civic Builders

**Charter-Related Associations**
- Natl. Alliance for Public Charter Schools
- New York Charter School Assn

**Funders**
- Walton Fdn
- Gates Fdn
- Dell Fdn
- Broad Fdn
- Arnold Family Fdn
- Robertson Fdn
- Robin Hood

**Human Capital**
- The New Teacher Proj.
- New Leaders for New Schls

**Charter Operators**
- Green Dot
- KIPP
- Harlem Success

**Accelerators**
- New School Venture Fund
- Charter School Growth Fund
PIE Network/Fight Club

• Advance charter schools and other options for parent choice (vouchers, tax credits).
• Increase number of Portfolio School Districts
• Eliminating teacher tenure
• Lots more testing
• Grading schools (A to F).
• Much more...
2007
12 Organizations
10 States

Colorado Succeeds
ConnCAN
The Education Trust-West
EdVoice
Employers for Educational Excellence (E3)
KidsOhio.org
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
Oklahoma Business and Education Coalition
Rhode Island Education Partnership
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
Texas Institute for Education Reform
Thomas B. Fordham Institute - Ohio
2010
23 Organizations
18 States

Advance Illinois
Chalkboard Project
Colorado Succeeds
ConnCAN
The Education Trust- Midwest
The Education Trust-West
EdVoice
Foundation for Florida's Future
KidsOhio.org
League of Education Voters
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
Mississippi First
Oklahoma Business and Education Coalition
Partnership for Learning
Prichard Committee
RI-CAN
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
Stand for Children Colorado
Stand for Children Oregon
Stand for Children Washington
Tennessee SCORE
Texas Institute for Education Reform
Thomas B. Fordham Institute - Ohio

2013
45 Organizations
28 States & D.C.

A+ Education Partnership
Advance Illinois
California Business for Education Excellence
Chalkboard Project
Colorado Succeeds
ConnCAN
Connecticut Council for Education Reform
DC School Reform Now
The Education Trust Midwest
The Education Trust-West
EdVoice
Educate Texas
Expect More Arizona
Foundation for Florida's Future
Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
Idaho Business for Education
KidsOhio.org
League of Education Voters
MarylandCAN
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
Mississippi First
MinnCAN
NYCAN
Oklahoma Business and Education Coalition
Partnership for Learning
PennCAN
Prichard Committee
Public School Forum of North Carolina
RI-CAN
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
Stand for Children Arizona
Stand for Children Colorado
Stand for Children Illinois
Stand for Children Indiana
Stand for Children Louisiana
Stand for Children Massachusetts
Stand for Children Oklahoma
Stand for Children Oregon
Stand for Children Tennessee
Stand for Children Texas
Stand for Children Washington
Tennessee SCORE
Texas Institute for Education Reform
Thomas B. Fordham Institute - Ohio
Why are so many states scaling up charters schools instead of community schools?

Group Discussion
Community Schools

- 4000/5000 community schools
- 44 states
- 5.1 million children enrolled
- Federal funding: Title I, 21st Century Learning grants
Community School Organizing Efforts Occur At Several Levels

• State

• City/District/Local

• School
Minnesota
## Brooklyn Center, MN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment –</td>
<td>Enrollment – 723</td>
<td>Enrollment – 964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College enrollment</td>
<td>College enrollment – 61%</td>
<td>College enrollment– 78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rate</td>
<td>Graduation rate – 74%</td>
<td>Graduation Rate - 87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student absences</td>
<td>Student absences from one class period or more – 9,000</td>
<td>Student absences from one class period or more – 6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low student</td>
<td>Low student involvement in after-school</td>
<td>80% of middle and high-schoolers involved in at least one after school activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>involvement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District-wide</td>
<td>District-wide behavioral references:</td>
<td>District-wide behavioral references:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>behavioral</td>
<td>5,113</td>
<td>2,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>references:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ohio
Cincinnati

- 33,000 students
- 52 neighborhoods
Cincinnati Timeline

1970s to 1990 – Poor academic outcomes, declining enrollment, exit of middle class from the city

Lots of services with little coordination

2001 – Cincinnati launched its community schools initiative

2004 – First community schools opened

2006 First community school coordinators hired
### Effects of Community Schools in Cincinnati

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Community Schools</strong></td>
<td><strong>34 out of 55 schools are community schools</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/white achievement gap 14.5%</td>
<td>Black/white achievement gap 4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rate 51%</td>
<td>Graduation Rate 82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Performance Index 72.1</td>
<td>School Performance Index 86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85% of students drop out by end of 10th grade (Lower Price Hill Stat)</td>
<td>62% of students attend college (Lower Price Hill Stat)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Worked in Cincinnati?

• Needs Assessment
• On-site coordinators
• Involvement of parents and community in the development of a strategy to improve results.
• Partnerships with business, non-profit, clergy, federal/state/city government to provide services.
• Monitoring of many data points
• Lots more...
Texas
### Effects of Community Schools in Austin, TX – Webb Middle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment – 485 (97% FARM; 50% ELL)</td>
<td>Enrollment – 750 (97% FARM; 47% ELL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest performing middle school in Austin; on verge of closure.</td>
<td>Highest performing Title 1 Middle School of 14 other Middle Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate – 48%</td>
<td>Graduation Rate – 78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment – 600 and on verge of closure</td>
<td>Enrollment – 1250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance – 88%</td>
<td>Attendance – 95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rate - 48%</td>
<td>Graduation Rate - 85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Mobility - 41%</td>
<td>Student Mobility - 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students earning dual college credit – 0</td>
<td>Students earning dual college credit – 150+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cities with Strong Community Schools

- New York City
- Baltimore, MD
- Chicago, IL
- Lancaster, PA
- Austin, TX
- Cincinnati, OH
- Oakland, CA
- And more...
Funding Mechanisms for Community Schools

- Federal Title 1 (Cincinnati)
- Federal CS Grant (Paterson and Orange NJ)
- Foundation dollars (most locations)
- City revenue (Baltimore)
- School District (Milwaukee)
- State Funding Formula (Kentucky)
Federal Funding

• Full Service Community Schools Grants
• Title I funding
• 21st Century Community Learning Centers
• School Improvement Grants
• Promise Grants
• Race to the Top District Competitions
Organizing for Community Schools
The Current CS Movement

• State Legislation

• City-level efforts

• School Board efforts
States Introducing A Version Of This Legislation In 2015

- Texas
- Minnesota
- California
- New York
- Wisconsin
- Georgia
- Pennsylvania
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Maine
Features of CPD/AROS Model Sustainable Community School Legislation

- **Funding and Planning:** State DOE makes grants available to plan, implement and improve community schools.
  - Technical assistance provided by the DOE directly or by an organization with demonstrated experience with community schools planning.
  - Every proposal must include 1) positive discipline practices, 2) more engaging and relevant curriculum, and 3) transformative parent engagement.

- **Baseline analysis:** Categorize state of affairs at schools and strategies to address problems areas (E.g. reading levels, retention, discipline, graduation rates, ELL, etc.)

- **Coordinators:** Once funded, each school will hire a Resource Coordinator to coordinate services at each covered school site. If proposing to serve three or more sites, the schools must also hire a Program Director to coordinate activities across covered school sites.
Organizing Strategies & Tactics for Community Schools
Minnesota
Corporate education reformers have three key strategies:

- Multi-million PR and community organizing campaigns to promote charter narrative and school choice as the only successful policies to close the racial achievement gap.
- Take over decision-making in the public system: electoral campaigns to influence state and local elections and imbed consultants, staff and advocates inside government.
- Lobbying strategy to promote standardized testing, weaken teaching standards, increase funding and market share of charter industry schools.
RESET campaign

https://youtu.be/0UxzeSkzhj4?list=PLpHH9HH5FKrY0Dvuu_H1LE18vO0Om_ucX
Market-reformers in MN

- Big MN corporations (Target, US Bank, Best Buy, 3M, Medtronic, etc.) and their organizations – Chamber of Commerce and MN Business Partnership
- Corporate foundations and local millionaires and billionaires
- Market-reform PIE affiliates: SFER, MinnCAN, E4E, TFA, Charter School Partners
- Funds from out-of-state interests tied to New Schools Venture Fund, CRPE, Education Reform Now, ed tech investors
Key messages, tactics of opponents

- Push a narrative based that two “beating the odds” charter schools represent the entire charter sector.
- Reinforce message that “poverty doesn’t matter.”
- Use race issues as wedge between progressives and Education Minnesota, educators
Education Minnesota campaign

- Awarded NEA Leveraging Leadership in Education Reform grant to develop member-community organizing plan to expand community schools as alternative to market-based policies.
- Conducted statewide listening efforts to learn from practicing community school leaders.
- Began leading the MN Network of Community Schools in Feb. 2014.
Education Minnesota campaign

• EdMN community engagement work in 2014 focused on community schools.
• Formed Coalition for Quality Public Schools during 2014 Minneapolis school board elections, with focus on community schools.
• Nov. 2014: GOP won MN House, forcing us to revise our scope and goals.
Tour of Brooklyn Center

https://youtu.be/6LlS_IkOnCw
Education Minnesota campaign

• Winter 2014-2015: convened stakeholders to draft legislation based on Coalition for Community School/CPD reports.
• Strategy during session was to start small – work on the language and pilot appropriation.
• Put community school leaders front and center during media events and legislative testimony – used non-ideological, non-controversial messaging and tactics.
Duluth press conference

Education Minnesota campaign

• “Full-service community schools” law was passed in June.
• Contains $500,000 appropriation and our proposed language.
• Strategic implementation of new law is first strategy of phase two of our campaign.
• Next steps:
  – Create portfolio of “beating the odds” community schools. Focus PR and organizing efforts on telling their stories, contrasted with charter schools.
  – Use member-community organizing to create a wait-list for FSCS funding - create a base with demand to expand FSCS in the next session.
Texas
Texas

- Legislation was introduced via Education Austin and Austin Voices – union/community alliance

- Bi-partisan sponsorship

- Two bills:
  - 1\textsuperscript{st} definitional and grants-based
  - 2\textsuperscript{nd} alternative to reconstitution
  - $5 million = site coordinators in 40 schools?
Maryland
Baltimore, Maryland

- Created solid strategic plan with local and state policy change at core
- Created a template for legislative language and vetted it
- Built strong coalition housed at teachers’ union that included unions, community groups, practitioners, faith, youth
- State-based fight harnessed, grew, and solidified coalitional energy
- Current events pushed dominoes over
Baltimore – Organizing for CSs
City council resolution passed unanimously:

Doubled funding for community schools (and Out of School Time)

Instructs the Mayor to create sustainable funding stream

Creates city “Youth and Family Cabinet” of stakeholders to partner in expanding model
City Legislative Efforts

- **New York City**
  - 100 new community schools funded under DeBlasio

- **Baltimore**
  - Doubled funding for community schools

- **Newark**
  - Mayor wants one community school in each ward
Discussion On Scaling Up

• What are the hurdles to getting more CS’s where you are?
• What type of partnerships would be needed to successfully open more CSs?
• What resources would you need to successfully advocate for more CSs?
• What are you going to do?
Want to Know More?

- Drop Box
  - Community Schools toolkit
  - Campaign material
  - Model legislative language
  - Videos
Please complete the evaluation for this breakout session!