



Community Schools Initiative

ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021

**LOUDOUN COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

INTRODUCTION

The Community Schools initiative began at Sterling Elementary School in 2015. The program has since expanded to all six LCPS Title I elementary schools. Our initiative promotes academic achievement for all students by providing targeted services in four areas: health and social services, mental health, family engagement, and youth development.

Funding from 100WomenStrong has supported a full-time social worker in our Community Schools. LCPS funds the other two social workers, as well as all six full-time Parent Liaisons at these schools.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MISSION

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement leads to improved student learning, strong families and healthier communities.

VISION

Placing students at the center of academic achievement, health and social supports, and authentic family engagement to ensure shared ownership and investment by the community in the lives of its youngest members.



PILLARS

All pillars serve to support academic achievement:

- Health & social services
- Mental health
- Youth development
- Family engagement



OUR
**COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**



Sterling
Elementary



Sully
Elementary



Sugarland
Elementary



Guilford
Elementary



Rolling Ridge
Elementary



Forest Grove
Elementary

DEMOGRAPHICS

3,112

Students enrolled in a
Community School

80%

Students are economically
disadvantaged

75%

Students are
English Language Learners

507

Students are homeless

87%

Students are racial or
ethnic minorities

10%

Students have disabilities

2020-2021

Review

In March of 2020, LCPS physically closed its doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic and began 100% virtual learning. Our Community Schools quickly pivoted and creatively adapted to meet the needs of their students and families in a virtual space. Community Schools assisted families with internet connection, instructional school technology, child care needs, food, housing, and much more.

A new Supervisor of Outreach Services, Sarah Eaton, was hired in November of 2020. This year Sarah has worked with colleagues and community stakeholders to learn and support the specific and varied needs of each Community School.

In March of 2020, Dr. George White, former professor at LeHigh University and expert in Community Schools lead a program-wide virtual training. Principals, assistant principals, parent liaisons, school social workers school counselors and division-wide administrators attended, learning best practices and next steps for their Community Schools vision.

In March of 2021, LCPS began bringing students back to the physical classroom and by April 2021 all grades resumed face-to-face learning.

While COVID-19 was a challenge for all, it highlighted our schools' passion and dedication for serving their students and families.

Health and Social Services

807

Students received weekend food assistance

164

Families received diapers

832

Students received help with clothing

94

Families were referred for help with housing



School counselors, school social workers, parent liaisons and other staff worked collaboratively to refer families to community resources such as Loudoun Hunger Relief, Moms Against Poverty, HealthWorks, Loudoun Free Clinic, Women Giving Back, local churches and other nonprofit agencies.

Mental Health

964

Students were assisted with mental health services or referrals.

197

Students received case management from a school social worker

6

All six schools provided mental health training for teachers and staff

57

Students participated in group sessions facilitated by a school social worker

63

Students received socio-cultural assessments.

41

Suicide screenings were conducted

The Unified Mental Health Teams at each school helped students with mental health needs. Many students were referred to Loudoun County Mental Health, Youth for Tomorrow and HealthWorks. A major challenge for the UMHTs were finding mental health services for uninsured or undocumented students.



Youth Development

While COVID-19 forced schools to suspend many of their after-school in-person offerings, students continued to participate virtually in clubs and activities including: Girl Scouts, INOVA Healthy Plate Club, Girls on the Run, PROPEL, Craft Nights, and Reading Under the Stars.

A goal for all six Community Schools during the 2021-2022 school year will be to resume in-person after-school youth development opportunities for students in a safe and mindful manner.





Parent Engagement

139

Parents participated in PEP
(Parents as Educational
Partners)

1,200

Or more parents were
assisted with school

This year our Community Schools learned how to engage with parents virtually. Many helped families with navigating school technology such as ParentVUE, Schoology, and setting up email accounts. Schools connected with parents by phone, text, email, and written communication. LCPS provides interpretation and translation services for families who speak languages other than English.

Looking to 2021-2022

- Resume in-person classes
- Expand after school youth development opportunities
- Explore opportunities to better support mental and physical health
- Create community schools leadership team at each school to include school staff, administrators and community stakeholders
- Complete a community schools needs assessment
- Develop partner-mapping to match schools with community agencies for their specific needs

THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



HealthWorks for Northern Virginia
Your Community Health Center



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**COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS INITIATIVE**