Community Schools
Centering Multilingual Families

Anyaa Hurwitz, SEAL
Hayin Kimner, Community Schools Learning Exchange
Corina Sapien, Morgan Hill Unified
Meet Your Presenters

Hayin Kimner, PhD
Managing Director
Community Schools Learning Exchange
hayin@cslx.org

Anya Hurwitz
Executive Director, SEAL
anya@seal.org

Corina Sapien
Director of Family & Community Engagement, Morgan Hill Unified
sapienc@mhusd.org
Today’s Agenda

● What’s a community school?
● The role of Family Partnership within CS
● Morgan Hill’s journey
● Taking Family Partnership & CS conversations home!
We are successful today if you...

- Leave with a **shared understanding of what a community school is** and is NOT.

- Start to see community schools as part of an **embedded, whole-child strategy that centers multilingual families**, not just a one-time grant program.

- Reflect on, learn about, and share concrete examples of intentional planning for integrated family partnerships as part of your community school strategy.
Our Norms & Commitments

**Build trust together.**
"It is mutual trust, even more than mutual interest, that holds human associations together." - H. L. Mencken

**Encourage diversity in ideas, perspectives, and preferences.**
“Strength lies in differences, not in similarities.” - Stephen Covey

**Listen actively to understand what others are saying and not saying.**
“Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.” – Jimi Hendrix

**Assume best intent, and attend to impact.**
“Be gentle with yourself. You’re doing the best you can and so is the person sitting next to you.” - unknown

**Maintain intellectual humility & share space.**
“Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance.” - Verna Myer
Warm up activity

*Why does partnering with families matter? And why can it be so hard?*

California’s community schools are driven by “teaching and learning that is relevant to, inclusive of and centered in the wisdom, history, culture and experience of students, families and communities.”

—California Department of Education

Schools and districts bear the primary responsibility to create opportunities for and scaffold meaningful family engagement in decision-making. —“Centering Multilingual Families in California Community Schools”; SEAL-CSLX

Parents and caregivers might be told they are going to be meaningfully included in decision-making, but then face disappointment when they realize that decisions are made “behind closed doors” and they are expected to go along regardless of whether those decisions fit with their cultural context and needs.

—Sabrina Hope King and A. Lin Goodwin

Breaking down systems of oppression within public education requires building relationships with families based on mutual respect and trust. We can no longer afford to put family engagement on the list of things that are “nice to have” for schools serving low-income families. Engagement is essential if we want to stop celebrating exceptions, and instead celebrate ending generational poverty for entire school buildings full of children. That level of change will impact not just our families, but entire communities and generations to follow.

—Khadijah Williams, D.C. senior manager of Family and Community Engagement at Rocketship Public Schools
Community Schools 1.0

“Could someone help me with these? I’m late for math class.”

Scott
Community Schools 2.0: Affirming and Sustaining

- Children, youth, families, communities are **NOT BROKEN**
- Prioritize **dignity and agency**
- Language is **identity**
- Belonging matters
Community Schools 2.0: Beyond an equity strategy

Targeted Universalism

- Setting universal goals pursued by **targeted processes** and strategies
- Targeted strategies are based upon **how different groups are situated** within structures, culture, and across geographies to obtain the universal goal.
- **Goal oriented** and the processes are directed in service of the explicit, universal goal.

https://belonging.berkeley.edu/targeted-universalism
What if we were to *completely redesign* schools?
A community school strategy transforms a school into a place where educators, local community members, families, and students work together to strengthen conditions for ALL student learning and healthy development.

As partners, they organize in-and-out of school resources, supports, and opportunities so that young people thrive.

*Community Schools Forward, 2023*
A Shared Framework

LEGEND

- Why we do this work
- Who drives this work
- Enabling conditions
- Key practices
- Supportive infrastructure
The California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP)
CA Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) updated 1/25/23

$2.8B (FY 2021 budget) allocated through ‘27-28

So far...

- **Cohort 1 Planning grants:**
  - 192 grant awards, totalling **$38,200,122.40** (remaining balance, $96,541,227.60)

- **Cohort 1 Implementation grants:**
  - 76 grant awards, totalling **$611,087,500** across 458 school sites

- **$200-500K Coordination allocations to COEs to support LEA implementation**
  - FY 2022: **additional $1.3B** to expand the CCSPP through 2030-2031

CCSPP 2022-23

Grant Making Schedule

- **Planning Grant RFA (Round 2)**
  - SBE Approved March 2023
  - Funding awarded winter/spring ‘22-23

- **Implementation Grant RFA (Round 2)**
  - Opened Jan 24, 2023
  - Due: March 21, 2023
  - SBE approval May 2023
  - Funding disbursement August 2023
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Then…</th>
<th>… and now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-location</td>
<td>Collective impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adding programs and services</td>
<td>Whole school transformation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Removing barriers” to learning</td>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning; the science of learning/development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBOs vendors</td>
<td>CBOs as partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrap-around services (often “diagnosing/fixing” kids)</td>
<td>Integrated services, opportunities, and supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program-centered</td>
<td>Student-centered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time-limited project</td>
<td>Long-term strategic commitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovators developing 1 or a few schools</td>
<td>Developing systems of CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted on struggling schools</td>
<td>The way we do school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRUST is the bedrock for family partnership

“Breaking down systems of oppression within public education requires building relationships with families based on mutual respect and trust. We can no longer afford to put family engagement on the list of things that are “nice to have” for schools serving low-income families. Engagement is essential if we want to stop celebrating exceptions, and instead celebrate ending generational poverty for entire school buildings full of children. That level of change will impact not just our families, but entire communities and generations to follow.”

—Khadijah Williams, D.C. Senior Manager of Family and Community Engagement at Rocketship Public Schools
## Trends over 20+ years: Family Partnership

### Then...  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent engagement</th>
<th>Providing programs for parents/families</th>
<th>Representation on advisory committees</th>
<th>Deficit-based</th>
<th>Feedback/input for compliance purposes</th>
<th>Focus mainly on academics</th>
<th>Scattered and disjointed services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### ... And Now  
| Family engagement and partnership | Families as co-creators | Meeting parents where they are: coffee chats, Round Table discussions, Visiting ELACS around the district | Focus on family assets: language, culture, wisdom | Feedback/input to guide district engagement initiatives | Focus on the whole child/family | One-stop shop Community Schools |
4 integrated areas of family partnership that centers Multilingual Learners

1. Welcome and build relationships with all families
2. Build family and staff capacity to engage in collaborative leadership
3. Help families provide supports for student learning at home
4. Actively work with families to promote home language development and multilingualism
Think Pair Share

**Strength** – What are you already working on that you’re proud of or excited about?

**Growth** – What are you hoping to grow or expand in the coming 1-3 years?

**Support** – What would be supportive for you in undertaking this work?
Family & Community Engagement

In Morgan Hill Unified School District
## Morgan Hill Unified School District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Unified School District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Dr. Carmen Garcia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>8,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilingual Learners</td>
<td>1,360 (15.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>52.1% (27% White)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free/Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>3,117 (34.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Southern part of Santa Clara County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Framing Family and Community Engagement

**Coordination, integration, & alignment:** How can we build on existing strengths, coherence and align efforts, and create compassionate systems?

**Family-home connection:** How are students & families engaged and supported? How can we amplify student & family voice?

**Community partnerships:** Who are our existing community partners? Who else in the community can support this work? How can we leverage community resources?
Welcome and build relationships with all families.

Build family and staff capacity to engage in collaborative leadership.

Help families provide supports for student learning at home.

Actively work with families to promote home language development and multilingualism.
Family engagement is a shared responsibility in which schools, parents/guardians/extended family, and community agencies are trusted partners, committed to reaching out to engage families in meaningful ways to actively support their children’s learning and education, development, and wellbeing.

Family engagement is continuous across a child’s life and entails an enduring, motivating commitment and a collective responsibility to the values of empathy, respect, and resilience as students mature into young adulthood.

High-impact family and community engagement is collaborative, culturally competent, inclusive, steadfast, and focused on supporting the whole child’s experience including students’ learning and education, development, and wellbeing.

Based on: National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
2022-23 LCAP Goal #2 / Meta #2 de LCAP

Promote Parent, Family, and Community Engagement in Education to Support a Shared Vision of Student Achievement

Promover la participación de los padres, la familia y la comunidad en la educación para apoyar una visión compartida del rendimiento estudiantil.
2022-23 LCAP Goal #2 / Meta #2 de LCAP

Promote Parent, Family, and Community Engagement in Education to Support a Shared Vision of Student Achievement

Promover la participación de los padres, la familia y la comunidad en la educación para apoyar una visión compartida del rendimiento estudiantil
View from the balcony
Family & Community Engagement in Morgan Hill Unified School District

- Gathering data, input, & feedback
- Welcoming Families
- FACE Center
- Family Learning & Services
- Community Liaisons - Alignment across sites
- Administration of Adult Education & Categorical Programs
- Marketing & Outreach

Supports for student learning
Build family and staff capacity
Promote home language multilingualism
Welcome and build relationships.
Gathering Data, Input, & Feedback

- **District Roundtable**
  - Fall: Community Center, Parent Ambassadors, Parent University
  - Winter: Welcoming Families, Asset Mapping
- **ELAC/DELAC/SSC/H & S Clubs Focus Groups**
  - EL Masterplan Vision
  - Community School Vision
  - Welcoming Families
- **Surveys**
  - Hanover
  - Community Schools
  - Center Use Survey

Listening to families
Sharing Data
Aligning family engagement activities with school improvement goals
Gathering Data, Input, & Feedback

Welcome and build relationships.

Build family and staff capacity

District Roundtable

Fall: FACE Center, Parent Ambassadors, Parent University

Winter: Welcoming Families, Asset Mapping

ELAC/DELAC/SSC/H & S Clubs Focus Groups

EL Master Plan Vision

Community School Vision

Welcoming Families

Surveys

Hanover

Community Schools

Center Use Survey

Listening to families

Sharing Data

Aligning family engagement activities with school improvement goals
Family & Community Engagement in Morgan Hill Unified School District

- Welcoming Families
- Gathering data, input, & feedback
- Family & Community Engagement Center
- Family Learning & Services
- Community Liaisons - Alignment across sites
- Administration of Adult Education & Categorical Programs
- Marketing & Outreach
Welcoming Families

Gathering Feedback
- Coffee Chats, Round Table Meetings, Parent Groups, MHUSD Staff

Start with Excellent Customer Service

Develop & Implement a plan

Building Personal Relationships, respect, and mutual understanding

Welcome and build relationships.

Community Liaisons

Site Office Staff & Administrators

Families
Welcoming Families

Gathering Feedback
Coffee Chats, Round Table Meetings, Parent Groups, MHUSD Staff
Start with Excellent Customer Service
Develop & Implement a plan

Community Liaisons
Site Office Staff & Administrators
Families

Building Personal Relationships, respect, and mutual understanding

Coordination, integration, & alignment
Family-home connection
Family & Community Engagement Center

Phase I

6 portables:
- Administration/Migrant
- 2 Education Centers
- Parent Center
- Child Care Center
- Parent University
- After School Program
- Gathering spaces

Phase II & Beyond

Services
- Counseling Services
- Classes for adults
- Food, Clothing, Laundry
- Gym, Studio, Showers
- Much, much more!

Facilities

Building Personal Relationships, respect, and mutual understanding

Listening to families

Sharing Data

Coordination, integration, & alignment
Family-home connection
Community partnerships

Listening to families
Sharing Data
Family & Community Engagement Center

Phase I
- 6 portables:
  - Administration/Migrant
  - Parent University
  - After School Program
  - Gathering spaces

Phase II & Beyond
- Services
- Facilities
- Counseling Services
- Classes for adults
- Food, Clothing, Laundry
- Gym, Studio, Showers
- Much, much more!

Welcome and build relationships with all families.
Build family and staff capacity to engage in collaborative leadership.
Actively work with families to promote home language development and multilingualism.
Help families provide supports for student learning at home.

Help families provide supports for student learning at home.
Family Learning Opportunities

- Zoom Classes
- CalFresh Nutrition Classes
- Rotary - Starting a Business
- Parent University – Partnering with our Community Based Organizations – Community Solutions, Rebekah’s, Discovery, Bay Area Community Health

Project to Inspire (CABE)
- PIQE

Raising Happy Children
- Family Fun
- Personal Growth

Building Personal Relationships, respect, and mutual understanding
- Listening to families
- Modeling Effective Teaching Practices

36
Family Learning Opportunities

- Zoom Classes
- CalFresh Nutrition Classes
- Rotary - Starting a Business
- Parent University – Partnering with our Community Based Organizations – Community Solutions, Rebekah’s, Discovery, Bay Area Community Health

- Project to Inspire (CABE)
- PIQE

- Raising Happy Children
- Family Fun
- Personal Growth

Building Personal Relationships, respect, and mutual understanding

Listening to families

Modeling Effective Teaching Practices
Community Liaisons
Alignment Across Schools

- Welcoming Families Plan
- Handbook
- Outreach & Making Connections
- Cecelia's Closet & other services
- Learning opportunities
- Community Schools Surveys along with our CARE team
- Assisting with ELAC & ELPAC
- Interpretation Services

Building Personal Relationships, respect, and mutual understanding
Listening to families
Sharing Data
Community Liaisons
Alignment Across Schools

Welcoming Families Plan
Handbook
Outreach & Making Connections
Cecelia's Closet & other services
Learning opportunities
Community Schools Surveys along with our CARE team
Assisting with ELAC & ELPAC,
Interpretation Services

Building Personal Relationships, respect, and mutual understanding
Listening to families
Sharing Data
Marketing & Outreach

Website revamp

One stop portal for families

User friendly & visually appealing

Exploring what works

Print

Phone calls

Social Media

Sharing Data

Building Personal Relationships, respect, and mutual understanding
Marketing & Outreach

Website revamp
- One stop portal for families
- User friendly & visually appealing
  - Print
  - Phone calls
  - Social Media

Exploring what works

Marketing & Outreach

Sharing Data

Building Personal Relationships, respect, and mutual understanding
View from the balcony
Our work this year

- Hired Director of Family & Community Engagement
- Opened Family & Community Engagement Center
  - Planning of Phase II is underway
- Launched Welcoming Families Project
- Developing Community Liaison Handbook
- Community Schools Planning Grant
- Student Services
- Dual Language Immersion

- 4 Round Table Discussions
- Superintendent & Board Coffee Chats
- Started Parent University
- Bringing 5 parents to CABE
- Project 2 Inspire
- PIQE - 44 participants - ongoing
- EL Master Plan Focus Groups
- Site Family Engagement
Next Steps for MHUSD FACE

Gathering data, input, & feedback
- Formalize Data Collection
- Facility use form
- Coffee Chats
- Quarterly Round Table Discussion

Welcoming Families
- Process data
- Work with site admin, office staff, & community liaisons to draft plan
- Ongoing implementation

Family Center
- Phase II Plans
- Engagement & schedule of activities
- Hire Assistant

Family Learning & Services
- Complete Cycle 1 of Parent University
- Schedule Cycle 2 of Parent University
- Install Freedge

Community Liaisons
- Complete Handbook
- Continue work on Welcoming Families

Administration of Adult Education & Categorical Programs
- Site visits
- Engage with staff and students to develop mission, vision, goal-setting

Marketing & Outreach
- Overhaul district website
What are **YOUR** commitments for action TODAY?

- Welcome and build relationships with all families.
- Build family and staff capacity to engage in collaborative leadership.
- Help families provide supports for student learning at home.
- Actively work with families to promote home language development and multilingualism.

**WHO**

Who is currently working on these core elements of Community Schools? Who do you need as allies? Community partners or other champions?

**WHAT**

What are the opportunities to include multilingual students and families in the community school conversation?

**HOW**

How might you introduce/strengthen conversations about integrated approaches to family partnership? What support do you need to be successful in this work?
"Instead of asking educators what parents need to know in order to better support the school’s agenda, we asked parents themselves what they wanted to know and how they wanted to learn it... We started from the premise that parents and families were the experts on their own learning needs, priorities, children, cultures and communities’ best interests."
Thank you

Scan code. Be the first to receive: "Centering Multilingual Families in California Community Schools" Brief.

Fill out the form above to be one of the first to receive access to this publication with strategies and resources on how to foster family partnerships in community schools.