

Community Schools in Las Cruces

What is a community school?

Shared Space

Typical School	Community School	Community Schools in LCPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School often shuts down on evenings and weekends, and is closed in the summer • Challenging for community to use school space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School is open year round and in the evenings and weekends as a hub for the community, including streamlined access to the school space for neighborhood meetings, public lectures, and other community events. This is supported by a full time Community School Administrator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn Middle School hosts a variety of public activities, such as neighborhood gatherings, town hall meetings with elected officials, neighborhood walks, and Great Conversations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning takes place in the classroom during the regular school day • Instruction is based in a standardized curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum is culturally relevant and community based • Learning extends beyond the classroom and into the community through field trips, project based learning, and guest lectures. • Before and after-school programs are abundant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn has added ENLACE to its curriculum, brings in community speakers and groups to lead workshops, and supports project-based learning for students in the community • Lynn added 20 hours of extra-curricular instructional time to the school week in the 2017-18 school year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few families participate in family meetings such as PTO/SAC, and parent-teacher conference attendance is low • Families often feel disconnected and that they do not have a voice in school decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are invited into schools as partners; their knowledge and culture is respected • Families have an authentic voice in the schools vision and direction • Families feel like an integral part of the school community and have regular communication with school staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn’s Principal hosts weekly “Facebook live” chats with families as well as regular in person meetings • Lynn staff and community was trained to conduct home-visits • Lynn hosted multiple sessions of “First Teacher” workshops for families

Extended Learning

Family Engagement

Wrap-Around Services

Restorative Practices

Shared Leadership

Typical School	Community School	Community Schools in LCPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many families struggle to meet basic needs, and students often come to school concerned about things like hunger, healthcare, and homelessness • Students often miss school because they are sick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School strategically partners with community agencies and organizations to meet family and student needs, offering “wrap-around” services right at the school • Schools often develop family resource centers that provide resources and referrals to students and families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn is developing the first school based health center at a middle school in Las Cruces that will offer physical, mental, and dental care on-site • Lynn partners with Roadrunner Food Bank and Families and Youth, Inc. to distribute boxes of food to needy families and free dinners to hungry students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are often suspended, but nothing happens to treat their underlying misbehavior so they make the same mistake over and over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are held accountable for their actions, but also provided with support to deal with underlying causes of misbehavior through a trauma-informed, restorative lens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn is the only school in LCPS to have an on-site JARC unit providing case-management to students • Launching a restorative “cool-down” room as part of LCPS restorative justice cohort
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions are often made without input from students, families, and community members. • The federal and state governments dictate a top-down vision of education success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision and direction is bottom-up, emerging from local students, staff, families, and community members • Shared leadership gives all stakeholders a voice in decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over one thousand stakeholders participated in a deep needs and asset assessment to identify community priorities • A strategic plan is being collaboratively developed with stakeholders based on community priorities • Lynn is developing a House Council that will give students a voice in school affairs, and a democratic leadership team



For More Information about Community Schools at Lynn, please contact Sylvia Chavez at Schavez@lcps.net

Also See: <http://www.communityschools.org/>

