

# Help Oakland Students Thrive Through Community Partnerships

## Context

In 2010, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) revealed its five-year strategic plan, which centers around a task that few other districts have attempted: the creation of a Full Service Community School District that serves the whole child, eliminates health, social and educational inequity, and provides each child with a caring environment that supports student learning and success.

*A community school is a strategy for organizing the resources of the community around student success. It is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Schools become centers of the community and are open to everyone...These Community Schools are based on a "development triangle," which calls for a strong instructional program, expanded learning opportunities through enrichment, and services designed to remove barriers to students' learning and healthy development, so that they can thrive academically and socially. - The Children's Aid Society*

In practice, this means that Oakland schools are offering a wide array of services to their students and families, from more traditional academic and extracurricular programs to services not usually associated with schools, like farmers markets and dental services.

## Problem

Since the district does not have the resources to provide all services needed in a Full Service Community School District, its success will depend on strong, intentional community partnerships. Services are currently provided by hundreds of community organizations, and partners and services vary across schools. The district currently uses a macro-enabled Excel workbook to track community partners and create reports used by schools and funders.

The Excel workbook is not a sustainable system for tracking partnerships, and the data within it is not in a format that allows for easy reporting and visualization of partnerships across the district. The Community Partnerships team would like to see the following:

An improved method for tracking partnerships (can a quick and easy system be built, or

should they look into getting one of the district's Salesforce licenses?)

OR

An analysis of the data currently in the Excel workbook that considers one or more of the following questions:

- Can you identify any trends in the amount or type of services provided at Oakland schools?
- Can you use other public data sources to provide additional insights (eg. is academic performance correlated with a certain type of partner or number of partners? Are services being duplicated at site, or sites that are located close to one another? Are services located in the neighborhood being utilized by schools?)

### Stakeholders

Community Partnerships Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Looking to manage partners in a more systematic way</li><li>• Needs to understand offerings at all schools to promote equity and fill gaps</li><li>• Needs to be able to accurately report services and partners to funders and schools</li><li>• Need to more intentionally broker and sustain partnership relationships to better serve students</li></ul>
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need a handle on which partners are providing services at their site (particularly incoming administrators)</li><li>• Need to more systematically make decisions about which partners come on board</li><li>• Need to better evaluate success of a partnership</li></ul>
Funders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need accurate information on funded services being provided at sites</li><li>• Need to know where greatest needs/gaps exist to target funding</li></ul>

Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need recognition and communication from site so they can get key information and feedback to implement programming that is aligned with site needs</li><li>• Need to know which schools are in need of their services</li></ul>
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Suggested Resources

[CA Department of Education DataQuest](#)

[Oakland 2010 Census Data](#)