Azusa Community Schools

The Hub and the Heart of our Community!

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."
Coretta Scott King

Azusa CommUnity Schools

Connected · Joyful · Thriving

We build community together as we foster belonging and empower all.

Community School Video

What is a Community School?

A Community School strategy transforms a school into a place where educators, local community members, families, and students work together to strengthen conditions for student learning and healthy development.

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

Why?

Vision

Our vision is to lead the way in strengthening school communities to create a more equitable, socially just system where all students, families, and staff are empowered and thrive.

Mission

Our mission is to disrupt inequities and break the cycle of poverty by leveraging assets to transform schools. With authentic collaborative leadership at the center, we believe students, staff, families, and communities are essential partners to ensure all are seen, valued, and supported.

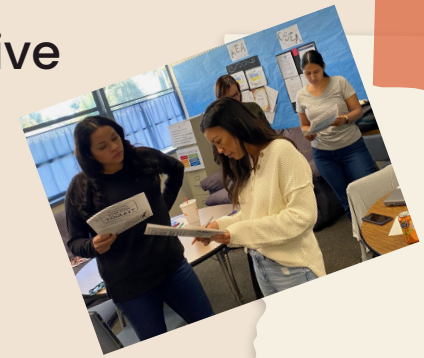
Four Pillars of Community Schools

01 Integrated Student Supports

03 Active Family and Community Engagement

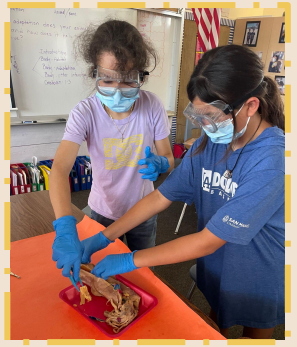
02 Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities

04 Collaborative Leadership Structures



Four Key Conditions of Learning

1.	Supportive environmental conditions that foster strong relationships and community
2.	Productive instructional strategies that support motivation, competence, and self-directed learning
3.	Social-emotional learning that fosters skills, habits, and mindsets that enable academic progress, efficacy, and productive behavior
4.	System of supports that enable healthy development, respond to student needs, and address learning barriers



Four Cornerstones Commitments

I

A Commitment to...

Assets Driven and Strength-Based Practices

II

A Commitment to...

Racially Just and Restorative School Climates

III

A Commitment to...

Powerful, Culturally Proficient, and Relevant Instruction

IV

A Commitment to...

Shared Decision Making and Participatory Practices

Four Proven Practices

Once community strengths and resources are inventoried and depicted in a map, you can more easily think about how to build on these assets to address community needs and improve health

1

Community asset mapping and gap analysis

2

Community School Coordinator

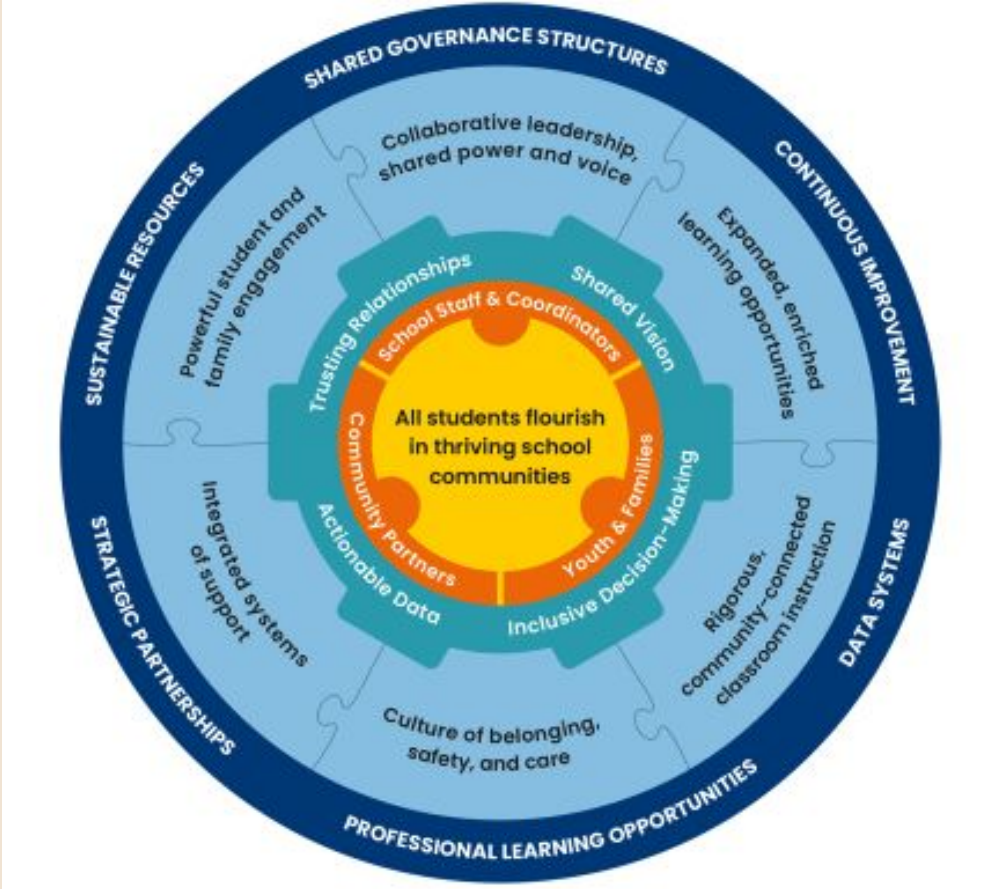
3

Site-based and LEA based advisory councils

4

Integrating and aligning with other relevant programs

Community School Essentials



Legend

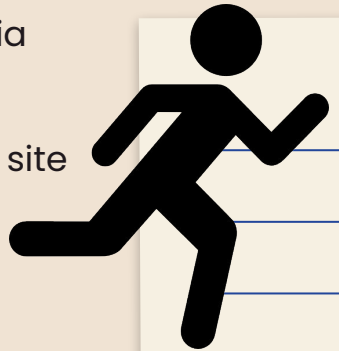
	Why we do this work
	Who drives this work
	Enabling conditions
	Key practices
	Supportive infrastructure

Where we are.....

- Hired our District Community Schools Director
- Hired our District Community Schools staff (Program Specialists and Community Liaisons for each of the 9 sites under the grant)
- Trained Community Schools staff in Community Schools Framework and Values
- Trained Community Schools staff in Community Circles/Restorative Practices
- Assigned Program Specialists and Community Liaisons to school sites
- Program Specialists are getting to know principals and learning about their sites
- Created a logo for Azusa Community Schools
- Developed our theme for this year

.... And where we are going

- Support sites with a first day (and everyday) of school WELCOME!
- Share Community Schools vision with all stakeholders
- Train school-site staff in Community Schools Framework and Values
- Train school-site staff in Community Circles/Restorative Practices
- Develop site-based Community Schools Advisory Council
- Develop district Community Schools Advisory Council
- Develop Needs and Assets Assessment Protocol and Criteria
- Administer Needs and Assets Assessment at each site
- Create and implement a Community Schools Plan at each site



Our first focus is on relationships and building community

Principal has a new "chief of staff" to help in building a relationship-centered, racially-just, strengths-based, restorative school culture where EVERYONE is valued and EVERYONE belongs.

A primary tool that we will be using to build relationships and community throughout all schools is community circles.

Theme: We build community together as we foster belonging and empower **ALL**

Questions?