

DMPS Community Schools exist to build meaningful partnerships between families, schools, and the community leading to improved student learning, thriving families and vibrant neighborhoods.

**Pillars of Community Schools:** The efforts of Community Schools are categorized in four pillars.

- Integrated student supports: Through a tiered system of support, ensuring each child is healthy, safe, supported, engaged, and challenged.
- Expanded learning time and opportunities: Programs and activities that provide additional academic instruction, enrichment, connection to real world learning, and service learning.
- Family and community engagement: Embraces families, neighborhoods, and communities as assets and mobilizes assets towards school and community improvement.
- Collaborative leadership and practice: Shared ownership and shared accountability among schools, families, and communities.



Community School (CS) Coordinators strengthen the bridge between the school and the community. The CS Coordinators work with their school teams to create a comprehensive continuum of internal and external supports to ensure students learn, thrive, and belong. Utilizing the foundation of the four pillars of Community Schools, Community School Coordinators aim to accomplish the following objectives:

- Foster effective school-community relationships toward improved student outcomes
- Support transitions in schools with an emphasis on improved student engagement
- Improve students' community engagement and social awareness
- Increase family engagement with schools
- Expand the community school strategy by elevating student, family, and community voice

**Return on Investment:**

The community school strategy has proven effective in improving academic outcomes for students and it is well accepted among community school practitioners that a crucial piece of this strategy is the Coordinator. The Coordinator is the person who oversees implementation of the strategy, and shares responsibility for the outcomes. ABC Community School Partnership contracted with Apex to conduct a study to examine the return on investment (ROI) of a Community School Coordinator. For each benefit, a process was applied to isolate the effects of the Coordinator to estimate her unique contribution. The ROI for the Coordinator for the five-year period was calculated utilizing the net benefits divided by the costs.

$$ROI = \frac{\$1,202,736 - \$148,258}{\$148,258} \times 100 = 711\%$$

Resulting in each \$1 invested in the coordinator returning approximately \$7.11 net benefits

\*see the full study here: [ROI\\_Coordinator.pdf \(communityschools.org\)](http://ROI_Coordinator.pdf(communityschools.org))



## 2020-2021 DMPS Community Partners and Partner Programs

DMPS has 108 official community partners that provide over 130 programs across the District. Partnership types include businesses, faith-based organizations, colleges, mental health providers, and community organizations.

<b>Programs that serve specific areas</b>	
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Skills (College & Career, Employability Skills, Life Skills, Financial Literacy, Technology)	100
Basic Needs (Food, Clothing, Shoes, School Supplies)	84
Enrichment (Civic Engagement, Mentoring, Reading, STEM, Athletics, Arts & Music)	106
Family Engagement (After School Enrichment, Social & Emotional Development, Translation Services)	97
Health & Wellness (Mental Health, Social & Emotional, Physical Fitness, Health Education, Dental Care, Nutrition)	101

## 2020-2021 By the Numbers

When COVID-19 began to impact our students and families, Community School Coordinators were integral to ensuring efforts for student and family support continued despite physical distancing.

- The Family Resource Guide was launched on the DMPS website in April 2020 and continues to be updated weekly. [Online Family Resource Guide - Des Moines Public Schools \(dmschools.org\)](https://www.dmschools.org)
- A ticketing system to request student/ family support has also been implemented. These requests route directly to buildings to ensure immediate response from Community School Coordinators.
- The Family Support Call Center was opened in May 2020 and fielded thousands of calls from DMPS parents and stakeholders to answer questions about technology, meals, and other vital information over the summer of 2020.
- Community School Coordinators worked daily throughout the summer of 2020 alongside Food and Nutrition staff to provide breakfast and lunch at DMPS school sites and identified community/apartment sites. Coordinators provided home deliveries to families with transportation barriers.
- Coordinators completed 758 Return to Learn family meetings with families that indicated concern with stable housing and food insecurity prior to the start of school in August 2020.

In addition to direct COVID-19 response, Community School Coordinators have accomplished the following this 2020-2021 school year (through March 2021):

- 820 students supported in accessing Health services
- 468 students supported in accessing Dental services
- 710 students supported in accessing Mental Health services
- 1,016 students supported in accessing clothing assistance through community partners
- Processed 112 clothing vouchers through the DMPS Children’s clothing purchase program
- 13,081 students supported in registering for community partner programs (out of school time)
- 2,431 students participating in high school silver cord program
- \$286,469 in kind resources (cash and new donated items)
- 1,993 in kind resources (volunteer hours)
- 4,605 households participating in food assistance programs (programs, pantries, and deliveries)
- 15,532 individuals participating in food assistance programs (programs, pantries, and deliveries)
- 4,144 families participating in engagement activities (information sessions and virtual events)
- Identified 858 students experiencing homelessness and assisted with basic needs through the identification tool, assessment, 90 day follow up assessment



## 2020-2021 DMPS Community School Sites

- East High School
- North High School
- Hoover High School
- Roosevelt High School
- Lincoln High School
- Virtual High School
- Callanan Middle School
- Goodrell Middle School
- Hiatt Middle School
- Weeks Middle School
- Meredith Middle School
- McCombs Middle School
- Central Campus
- Capitol View Elementary
- King Elementary
- Lovejoy Elementary
- Moulton Elementary
- Monroe Elementary
- Samuelson Elementary
- Morris Elementary
- McKinley Elementary

