



## Wisconsin Network for Community Schools

### Our Community Schools Definition:

A Wisconsin Community School is a neighborhood hub that brings together families, educators and community partners. A Wisconsin community school provides **students, families, and community members** with quality academic, enrichment, health and social resources to succeed in school and in life. Equity and social justice are at the core of Wisconsin's Community Schools.

### Our Guiding Principles:

- Wisconsin's Community Schools are the center of the neighborhood(s) in which their students live and are central to the growth and sustenance of their community.
- Wisconsin's Community Schools are a closely connected set of resources, human expertise, creativity, and collaborative relationships.
- Through engagement, Wisconsin's Community Schools operate as a driving force to enrich the lives of its stakeholders.
- Wisconsin's Community Schools aim to remove barriers and provide enhanced opportunities for all students, families and communities.
- Wisconsin Community Schools recognize and celebrate the diverse racial, religious, socio-economic, cultural, ability backgrounds and experiences of its stakeholders.
- Wisconsin's Community Schools provides strong ongoing professional development for educators as well as intellectual, social, economic, emotional, medical and physical supports for families and communities.
- Wisconsin's Community Schools understand the interconnectedness of each stakeholder's role in student learning and take an active role in preparing students to be ready for college, career, and critical citizenship in a democracy.
- Wisconsin's Community Schools value the use of critical, holistic qualitative and quantitative measures to guide the work of the school.
- Wisconsin's Community Schools employ a socio-ecological approach honoring each stakeholder's voice and fostering engagement through multiple communication methods.

- Wisconsin's Community Schools value the skills, talents, gifts, and dispositions of all invested parties including parents, family members, teachers, para-educators, administrators, business, non-profits, and faith leaders.
- Wisconsin's Community Schools accomplish its purpose key actions, including: strong community will, positive organizing efforts, shared leadership, ongoing needs assessments and asset mapping, a commitment to continuous quality improvement, and the employment of a Community Schools coordinator.
- Wisconsin's Community Schools are guided by a general principle of the Wisconsin Idea: that education should influence the lives of citizens beyond the boundaries of the classroom.