



Community Schools 101

Course Syllabus

Course Description

The Community Schools strategy is gaining a lot of momentum as an effective way to support communities that have long been underserved. What is a Community School though? There is a saying within the Community Schools movement that, "If you've been to one community school, you've been to one community school." Each Community School should be different based on the unique needs of that community. That being said, there are certain foundational concepts to be explored such as what a community school is, the four pillars of a comprehensive community schools strategy, the needs assessment process, shared decision-making teams, government policy, and the stages of development . This course will help you understand the fundamentals to become a Community Schools Champion!

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in foundational knowledge of the Community Schools strategy, including its core components, implementation practices, and equity-driven approach to improving school and community success.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Describe three core components of the community schools strategy.
2. Identify two key elements of integrated student supports within a community school.
3. Identify two examples of expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities.
4. Identify three strategies for engaging families and the community in a community school.
5. Describe one collaborative leadership practice used in community school implementation.
6. Describe four steps involved in conducting a community schools needs assessment.
7. Identify two roles or responsibilities of shared decision-making teams in community schools.
8. Identify one policy and one stage of development that influence community school success.

Modules

- Module 1: The Community Schools Strategy, Quiz 1
- Module 2: First Pillar of Community Schools- Integrated Student Supports, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Second Pillar of Community Schools- Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Third Pillar of Community Schools- Active Family and Community Engagement, Quiz 4



- Module 5: Fourth Pillar of Community Schools- Collaborative Leadership and Practices, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Needs Assessment, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Shared Decision Making Teams and Community School Partnerships, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Community Schools Policy, Funding, and Stages of Development, Quiz 8

Grading

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.