



2025 COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

COMPLETING THE CONTINUUM: BRINGING THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL TO ERIE HIGH

Thursday, July 24 | 9:45-11:00 a.m.

Presenters:

Donald Orlando, Principal of Erie High, Erie's Public Schools

Jason Burgert, Director, Career & Technical Education, Erie's Public Schools

Lori Krause, Community School Director Supervisor, UWEC

Meghan Easter, Associate Vice President, Community Schools, UWEC



Presenters & Panelists



Meghan Easter

Associate Vice President,
Community Schools, UWEC



Donald Orlando

Erie High Principal,
Erie's Public Schools



Jason Burgert

Director, Erie High Career &
Technical Education, Erie's
Public Schools



Lori Krause

Community School Director
Supervisor, UWEC



Erie High Overview & Demographics

- Transition to Erie High with school closures
- Student population
- Diversity of students
- Athletics
- Multiple connection points with Erie Students through CTE & Athletics
- Physical size of school campus/history of construction



Notable 24-25 Data

- District Enrollment: **10,457**
- Total HS student enrollment: **2,357***
- Primary Languages: **28**
- Refugee Students: **404**
- English Language Learners: **677**
- Special Education: **825**
- Homeless: **41***
- Projected 25-26 enrollment: **2,534***
- 23-24 Graduation Rate: **70.2%** for 4-yr cohort (516 graduates)
- 24-25 Graduation Rate: Available Oct 1. (expected over **600** students)

**Includes students enrolled in Cyber*



Erie High Career & Technical Education (CTE)



2024-2025

- 18 Career & Technical Education Programs

2025-2026

- Adding a new program, Aspiring Educators





Erie High Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Participating Students

- CTE/Cyber
- CTE/Collegiate
- CTE/Erie High



Erie High Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Unique opportunities for Erie High and students:

- Co-ops
- Field Trips
- In-class presentations from Industry Experts
- Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC) & community representation
- National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI)
- National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS)



Erie High, a United Way Community School

- First high school community school for United Way of Erie County
- United Way conducted extensive research on high school community school best practices
- Toured high school community schools during site visits at national conferences



Funding and Community Support

- **Initial Investment**
 - \$2 million grant received from The Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Transformational Philanthropy
- **United Way Endowment Campaign**
 - \$1 million investment received by Erie Insurance to officially launch Erie High
- **Additional Support**
 - \$3 million received from Corporate Partners and individual donors



In Depth Planning Process

- One year in-depth planning process began in August 2023
- **Collaborative bi-weekly meetings**
 - Included United Way backbone staff, District Superintendent, Director of Student Services, Erie High Administration
 - Discussed data collection process – survey questions, stakeholders, timeline for sending surveys, focus group scripts and scheduled sessions



Meeting the Unique Needs at Erie High

Established a Team of Community School Directors

- Family and Community Engagement
- Positive Environment for Wellness & Learning
- Expanded Learning & Extracurricular Opportunities
- School Transitions & Life Preparedness

Collaborative approach to hiring

- Job descriptions were approved by the hiring committee, which included district administration, building leadership, school staff, a parent representative, and United Way staff.



Meeting the Unique Needs at Erie High



Operating as a team of CSDs & driving one, cohesive action plan

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Strategic planning
- Ongoing, daily check-in meetings



Panel Discussion



***What early wins best illustrate the impact of
the Community School Model at
Erie High School?***





POSITIVE ENVIROMENT FOR WELLNESS & LEARNING

STRATEGIES:

- Improved School Attendance
- Increased Access to Health & Wellness Supports
- Improved School Culture





Expanded Learning & Extracurricular Opportunities

STRATEGIES:

- Increased Access to Out-of-School Time Opportunities
- Increased Access to In-School Enrichment Opportunities





School Transitions & Life Preparedness

STRATEGIES:

- Increased Supports for School Transitions
- Improved Career & College Readiness



JONATHAN WASSOLU

MAY SENIOR
SPOTLIGHT 2025

CONGRATULATIONS!



FREE

ERIE HIGH ROYALS CLASS OF **2025**

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES &
SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DIRECTORS
EDITORS





Family & Community Partnerships

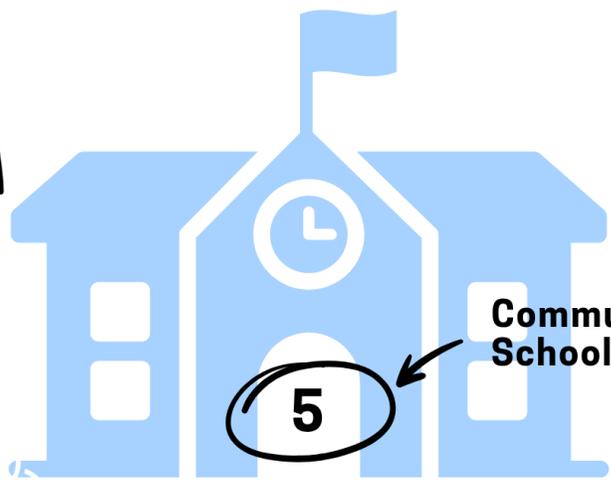
STRATEGIES:

- Improved Family Partnerships & Involvement
- Improved Neighborhood Support of Community School
- Improved Community Partnerships



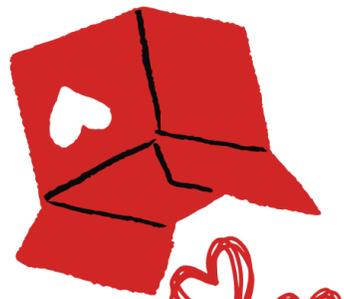
YEAR AT A GLANCE

ERIE HIGH SCHOOL | 2024-2025

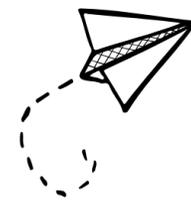


Community Schools Tours

5



17 unduplicated donors contributed \$8,445 of donations



community closet visits

new student orientations
150+

STUDENT EVENTS

- 6 new partnerships
- 14 existing clubs
- 6 school-day enrichment activities
- 110 student engagement opportunities
- 7 staff engagement opportunities



What were the most significant challenges encountered in the first year of implementation?



What's next....





2025 COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Q&A



SCAN FOR RESOURCES

THANK YOU!

#CommunitySchoolsInAction



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@unitedwayerie