

Community Schools: *Building a stronger Erie, one student at a time.*

BACKGROUND

Community schools are places where resources from the community are used to improve student success. *Community schools* offer programs that focus on health and social services for students and parents. Rather than sending students to services throughout the city and county, these services are brought into the school. The schools become the center of the area they serve, with access before, during and after school hours, including the summer months. As needs change, so do the supports offered at *community schools*.

PLANNING PROCESS

United Way worked to find *corporate partners* to support each *community school*. *Corporate partners* provide fiscal support. Once *corporate partners* were known, *lead partners* were chosen. *Lead partners* help connect community resources to the school. Once *lead partners* were chosen, *community school directors* were hired. A *community school director* increases programs that help teachers, students, parents, and community members. Once each *community school director* was hired, leadership teams at each school were formed. These teams, led by the principal and community school director, include members who know the school needs and want to explore ways to connect resources to the school.

Before programs begin at the *community schools*, a planning process must occur. To do this, the *community school directors*:

- Led focus groups and gathered surveys
- Found resources that exist in the school
- Reviewed school improvement plans
- Assessed student level data

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Community School Action Plans guide the work of a community school. The action plan includes needs of the school and action steps to address those needs. United Way helped the community school directors create timelines that outline their work. The timeline highlights what each community school will address as part of their action plan. It also details when community school programs will address each need. The timelines were designed to include input from teachers, parents, students, and community members. United Way will help to find partners that can offer programs in the school.

LEARN MORE AT [UNITEDWAYERIE.ORG/COMMUNITYSCHOOLS](https://www.unitedwayerie.org/communityschools)

