



# MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



MILWAUKEE  
Community Schools  
PARTNERSHIP



# ROLL CALL



Greater Milwaukee  
& Waukesha County

## United Way

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County plays a lead role in Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership (MCSP) by fundraising, aligning community resources, convening citywide partners, hiring Community School Coordinators, and working with Partner Agencies to hire and manage Coordinators.



MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS)

MPS plays a lead role in MCSP by supporting school leaders and aligning district resources and policies to ensure MCSP is embedded into instructional and operational school systems.



## Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association (MTEA)

The MTEA plays a lead role in MCSP by supporting educators in the implementation of the MCSP model and advocating for policies that align with MCSP values.



## Community Leadership Council

The MCSP Community Leadership Council is a diverse group of individuals representing various community and faith-based organizations, philanthropies, businesses, institutions of higher education, and family and youth leaders. The Community Leadership Council helps to guide the vision of MCSP, identify the long-term results, policy advocacy, and provide organizational and financial sustainability.

# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership (MCSP) is a collective strategy to transform schools into a place where students, families, staff, and the surrounding community can work together to ensure every student is successful.

The MCSP uses educational best practices aligned with local priorities determined by students, families, school staff, and the broader community to place students at the center and drive school improvement. Each school receives a full-time Community School Coordinator hired by a Partner Agency to add capacity to ensure schools put in place necessary strategies to embody three core values:

- **Shared Leadership:** To transform how schools make decisions by engaging diverse stakeholders to participate in the development and ownership of local strategies.
- **Equity:** To transform how schools collect and use data by recruiting, aligning, and managing partnerships and resources to ensure students, families, and staff have the resources they need to be successful.
- **Cultural Relevance:** To transform how schools relate to and interact with their students, families, and community in a more culturally relevant and restorative way leading to positive school cultures, strong relational trust, and high quality teaching.

This report details the efforts and impact this model has had in the ten current partnership schools.

## Partnership Schools

- Auer Avenue
- Bradley Tech High School
- Browning Elementary
- Hopkins Lloyd Community School
- James Madison Academic Campus
- Lincoln Avenue
- Longfellow School
- North Division High School
- South Division High School
- Zablocki Elementary School

## Partner Agencies

- Journey House
- Milwaukee Christian Center
- Milwaukee Urban League
- Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
- United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County



# SHARED LEADERSHIP

To transform how schools make decisions by engaging diverse stakeholders to participate in the development and ownership of local strategies. **This is done through the following approach:**

- **Community School Leadership Team:** A Community School Leadership Team (CSLT) is a diverse group of stakeholders that includes families, students, staff, community partners, and residents. This group meets monthly at each Community School, serving as the School Engagement Council, to share best practices, identify local strategies, and make decisions for how to best ensure student and school success.
- **Family & Youth Leadership:** Community Schools work to build youth and family leadership by creating spaces for local organizing and practicing student-centered and family-centered engagement strategies.
- **Collaborative Committees:** School staff committees are developed based on the needs and priorities of the school community. Committees are clearly aligned around shared goals and have a system of ongoing communication and accountability.

## Early Impact

- High School completion rates at the two longest running Community High Schools have experienced more than double the growth of the rest of the district.
- James Madison: Graduation Rates went from 54.9% (2014-15) to 71.1% (2017-18), a 16.2% increase.
- Bradley Tech: Graduation Rates went from 50.4% (2014-15) to 70.9% (2017-18), a 20.5% increase.
- Math scores doubled the district's growth rate.
- Reading scores outpaced the district's growth rate.



José Muñoz, Director of the national Coalition for Community Schools, meets with the Community Schools Youth Council at James Madison Academic Campus to hear about their powerful leadership work in their school community.

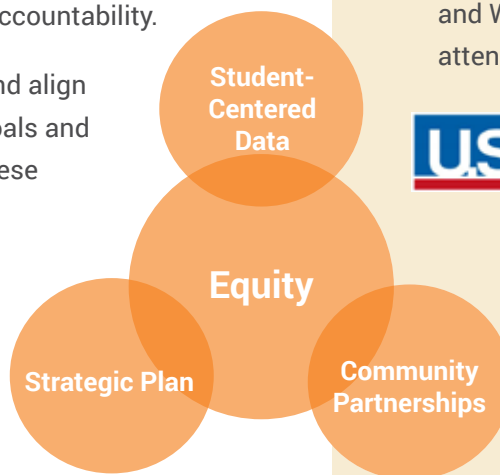
# EQUITY

To transform how schools collect and use data by recruiting, aligning, and managing partnerships and resources to ensure students, families, and staff have the resources they need to be successful. **This is done through the following approach:**

- **Student-Centered Data:** Each school conducts a community-engaged assessment process that identifies local priorities and uses student centered data to inform goals and strategies.
- **Strategic Plan:** Each school develops a shared vision that focuses on local priorities and supports the whole child, including health and wellness, social and emotional learning, family and community engagement, creating a safe and supportive climate, and strives towards academic achievement. This vision is communicated to all stakeholders and has ongoing systems of accountability.
- **Community Partnerships:** Schools recruit and align partnerships and resources based on the goals and priorities in each school's strategic plan. These student supports are fully integrated into the school.

## Early Impact

- Two Community School Leadership Teams discussed real, tangible changes, especially around safety, to the neighborhoods surrounding their schools.
- Community Schools received nearly \$400,000 in resources, donations, and volunteer time from United Way in the 2018-19 School Year.
- Lincoln Avenue's Walking School Bus was featured in U.S. News and World Report as a successful attendance intervention.



As a part of My Very Own Library, students at Hopkins Lloyd have the opportunity to select 10 new children's books over the course of three book fairs to create their own home library.

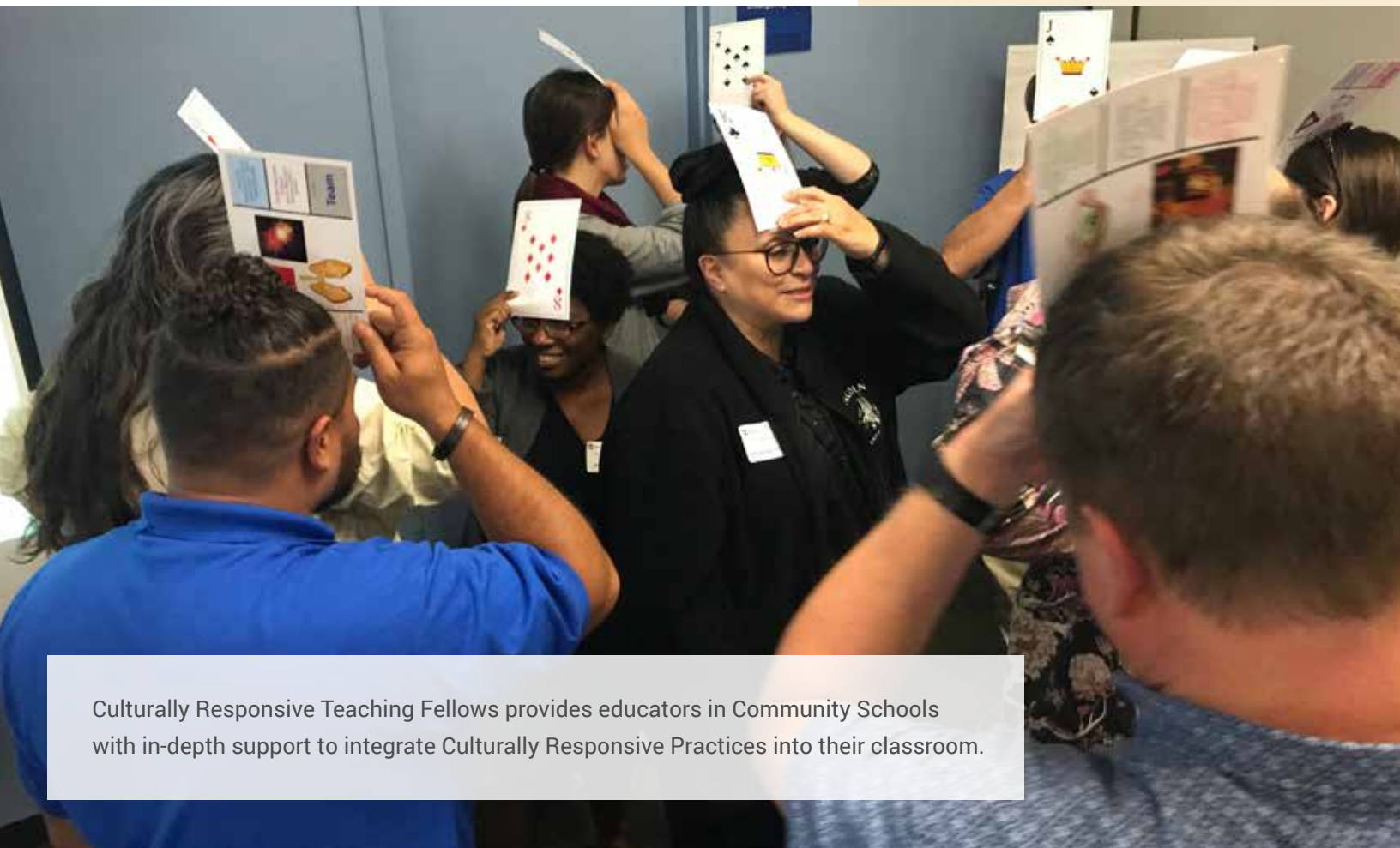
# CULTURAL RELEVANCE

To transform how schools relate and interact with their students, families, and community in a more culturally relevant and restorative way leading to positive school cultures, strong relational trust, and high quality teaching. **This is done through the following approach:**

- **Culturally Responsive Practices:** Schools receive professional development, resources, and support that build on the assets of the entire community, acknowledge personal and institutional biases, and respond to the self-identities of students, families, school staff, and community members. Schools promote strategies such as parent-teacher home visiting and community-based learning that bridge relationships between the school and community.
- **Restorative Practices:** Schools receive professional development and resources on Restorative Practices and other positive behavior strategies that work to build proactive, positive relationships and repair any harm that may have occurred in order to restore relationships with dignity and care.

## Early Impact

- Referrals decreased at a rate that outpaced district's average rate.
- Suspensions decreased at a rate that far outpaced district's average rate.
- A number of Community School Leadership Teams (CSLT) reflected how the process of implementing the CSLT prompted a sense of potential within school communities of what was possible. The MCSP brought with it a stronger sense of hope within the school and community.



Culturally Responsive Teaching Fellows provides educators in Community Schools with in-depth support to integrate Culturally Responsive Practices into their classroom.

# LOOKING AHEAD

2017-18 was only the third school year of implementation for MCSP. As the partnership grows, it continues to develop new strategies to ensure the focus is on student success.

## Readiness Cohort

The MCSP Readiness Cohort provides MPS schools that are interested in becoming a part of MCSP with the tools to lay the foundation for implementing a school transformation model. Each year 2-4 schools are selected to join the Readiness Cohort through an application process with the goal of preparing to become a full implementation MCSP school and receive a full-time Community School Coordinator.

## Community Schools and Culturally Responsive Teaching

Community Schools are working closely with MPS and UW-Milwaukee's School of Education, who received a Department of Education Grant, to support Culturally Responsive teaching strategies. This includes ongoing professional development for educators and resources to support site-based initiatives.

## First Annual Awards Event

In May of 2019, MCSP will host its first annual Community School Awards Night! This annual event will honor the educators, youth, families and community partners leading the fight for educational equity in MPS.

**"I'm so happy to be a partner - this is the type of school I want to be a partner with. Parents felt like they were at home."**

**-MCSP Community Partner**

**"My Community School is important to me because it has opened many, many doors."**

**- MCSP Youth Leader**



# THANK YOU

## TO OUR PARTNERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT



[UnitedWayGMWC.org/MCSP](http://UnitedWayGMWC.org/MCSP)

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