



MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

MILWAUKEE 
Community Schools
PARTNERSHIP



ROLL CALL



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

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.



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 the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership, 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; recruit, align and manage partnerships and resources to ensure students, families and staff have the resources they need to be successful.
- **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.

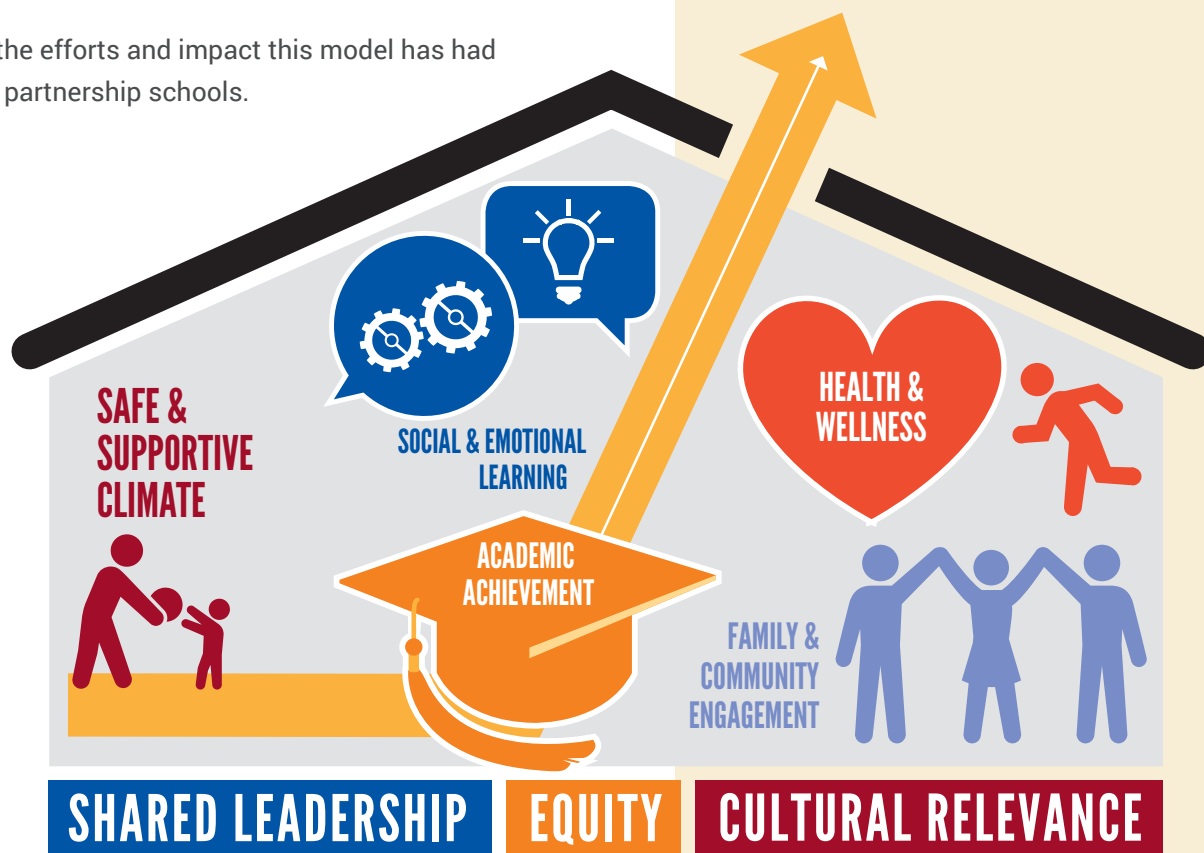
This report details the efforts and impact this model has had in the eight current partnership schools.

Partnership Schools

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

Partner Agencies

- Journey House
- 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

- Community partners in MCSP schools demonstrated an **increase across each of five key areas of collaboration** (shared leadership, cultural relevance, alignment of activities, strategic vision, integration of activities)
- Members of MCSP site-based leadership teams **increased in understanding of vision, objectives and goals**
- Members of MCSP site-based leadership teams **overwhelmingly agreed that they shared a common vision, commitment and communication**
- Over 90% of respondents, in both fall and spring, indicated that they **agreed or strongly agreed that their opinion was valued** and that they were valued members of the leadership team.



Auer Avenue's Community School Leadership Team includes families, students, community residents, school staff and partners. This group meets monthly to align strategies and make collective decisions.
(photo credit Joe Brusky, MTEA)

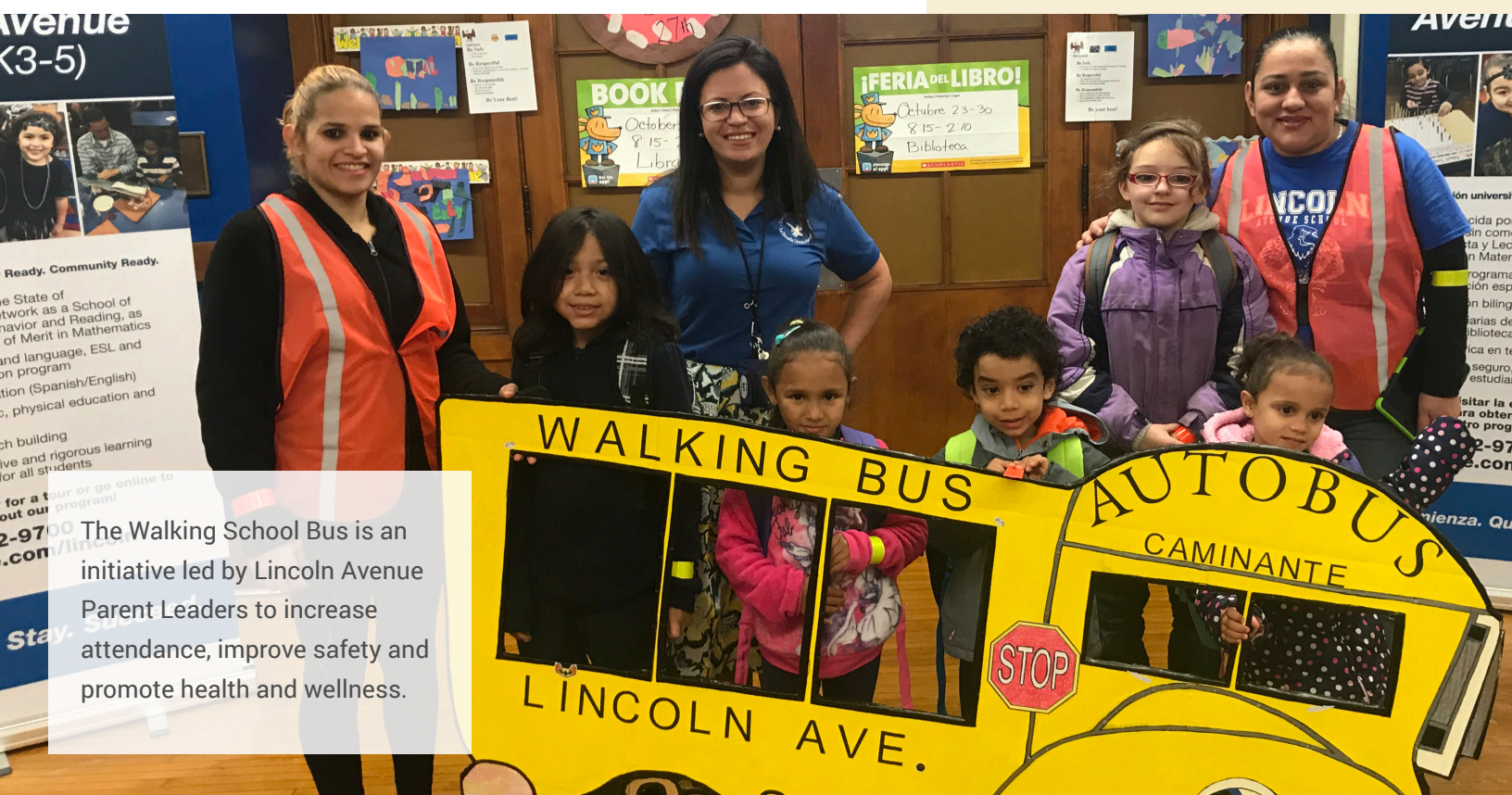
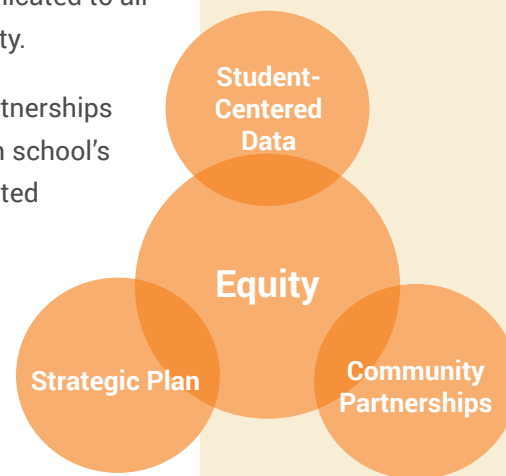
EQUITY

To transform how schools collect and use data; recruit, align and manage 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

- More than **\$200,000 in grants and in-kind donations** recruited to MCSP schools
- More than **100 community partnerships** recruited and/or supported
- **800 volunteers** donated more than **1,500 hours** of community service at MCSP schools



The Walking School Bus is an initiative led by Lincoln Avenue Parent Leaders to increase attendance, improve safety and promote health and wellness.

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.

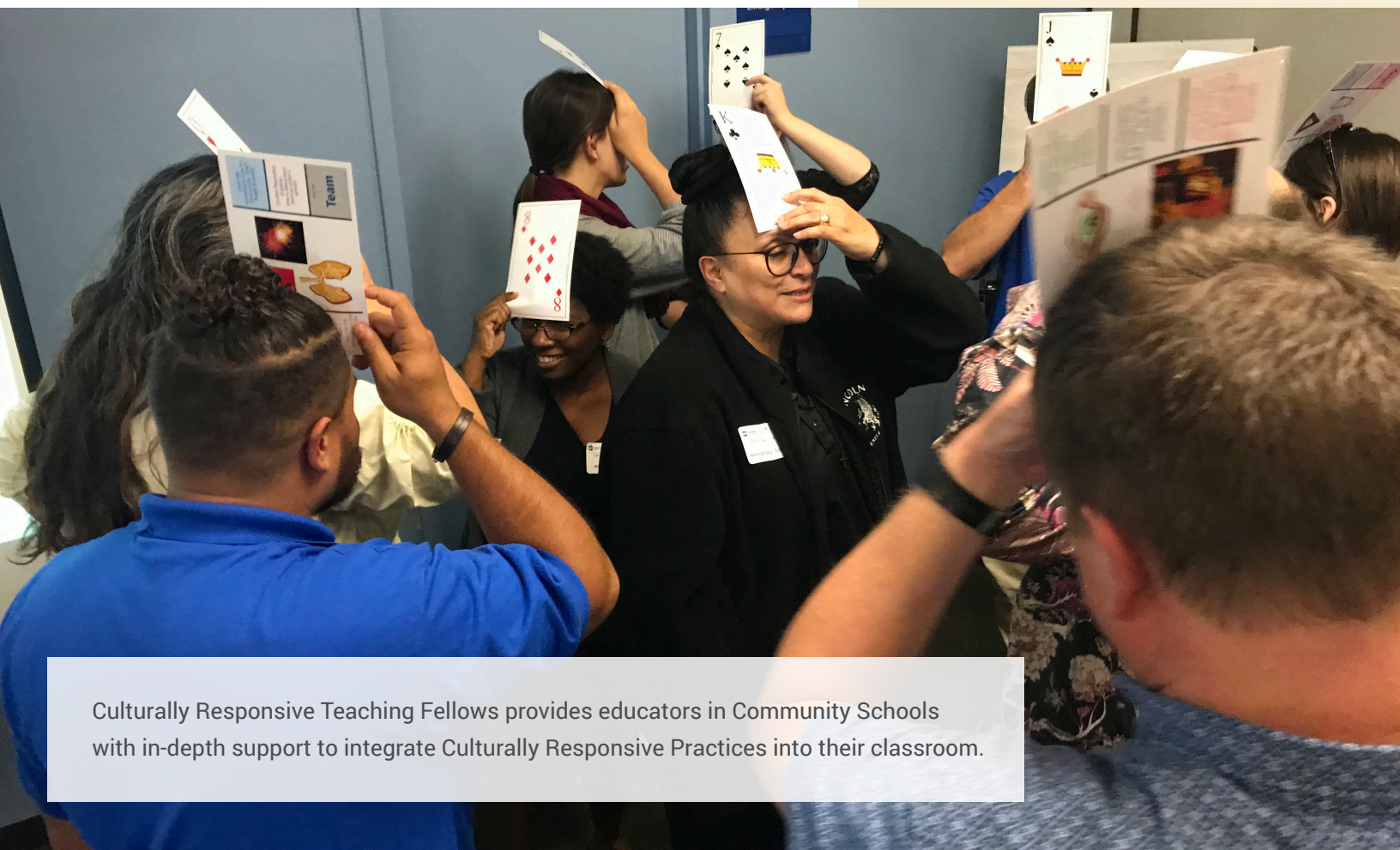
Early Impact

- MCSP schools demonstrated a **decrease in school referrals** that was a more positive trend than the district overall
- MCSP schools demonstrated **increased graduation rates**
- MCSP schools demonstrated **decreased suspension rates**

Cultural Relevance

Culturally Responsive Practices

Restorative Practices



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

LOOKING AHEAD

2016-17 was only the 2nd 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 as an Equity Strategy

A recent report from the Learning Policy Institute identified Community Schools as “An Evidenced-Based Strategy for Equitable School Improvement.” The MCSP Leadership Council seeks to work across organizational and governmental institutions to ensure students and families have the resources they need to be successful.

Measuring Impact

MCSP is excited to partner with UW-Madison’s Wisconsin Center for Educational Research for the next three years to measure the implementation and impact of Community Schools in Milwaukee.

“The Community School partnership has enabled JMAC to focus on improving student achievement and school culture through the reorganization of communication structures. All support programs are now invited to the table to analyze data and make joint decisions on how to better implement our plans. Our N.A.F. Academies are flourishing due to better coordination of community resources.”

Principal Ogunbowale, JMAC



THANK YOU

TO OUR PARTNERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

