



## Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Community Schools

2007 National & State Award Winner

SUN Community Schools (SUN CS) was founded by the City of Portland, OR and Multnomah County, OR in 1999 as a partnership of city, county, state, and schools. In 2004, SUN CS became part of the broader SUN Service System. The SUN Service System is an aligned system of care providing social and support services to youth, individuals and families that lead to educational success and self-sufficiency. Within the SUN Service System, SUN Community Schools are the school-based service delivery site for a comprehensive set of services including educational, enrichment, recreational, social and health services.

SUN Community Schools transform schools into community learning centers. They link with other community institutions, such as the libraries, parks and community centers, neighborhood health clinics and area churches and businesses.

### SUN Community Schools

- Extend the school day and broaden the educational resources for the community.
- Bring and coordinate services to the community.
- Bring the community together to break down isolation and strengthen families.
- Build relationships across generations, cultures and incomes.

## Making a Difference

In 2005-06, the 51 SUN CS in operation served:

- 16,315 children and youth in ongoing enrolled classes and activities
- 3,142 adults in adult education, skill-building and school-related classes

Bringing in community and businesses resources:

- Over 33,000 volunteer hours contributed by 2,163 community and business volunteers
- Over 350 business and community partners

Showing results:

Regularly participating students showed strong gains in academics, attendance and behavioral areas

- 70% increased state benchmark scores in Reading; with 71% meeting or exceeding benchmark
- 71% increased state benchmark scores in Math; with 70% meeting or exceeding benchmark
- Average daily school attendance was 94%
- Improving Youth Assets & Interim Academic Outcomes:
  - 70% improved in turning in homework on time
  - 80% improved in classroom academic performance
  - 79% had a more positive attitude toward school
  - 78% improved in class participation
  - 73% improved in finding alternative resolutions to problems
- 93% of students have at least one adult who cares about them at to whom they can go for help

## Size & Location

There are currently 54 SUN Community Schools across 6 school districts. This includes 22 elementary, 14 middle, 5 high, one K-12 school and 12 transitioning to K-8 schools.

SUN Community Schools serve a wide age group – from preschoolers to seniors – with the majority of those served falling between the ages of 5 and 19 (the students).

## Primary Activities

Though there is a broad range of activities provided at the SUN Community schools, SUN's primary activities are considered to be:

- Extended-day academic and enrichment programs that are linked with the school day
- Family Involvement and strengthening programs
- Health and Social Services for the students, families and community
- Community events
- Adult Education

## How do SUN Community Schools Work?

- SUN Community Schools have a non-district Lead Agency (nonprofit or community organization) that acts as managing partner for the SUN CS effort.
- The Lead Agency hires a full-time SUN CS Site Manager at each site. The hiring and supervision of the Site Manager is done jointly with the school principal.
- SUN CS Site Managers build and bring networks of services, classes and volunteers together to benefit youth, families and the community. They coordinate these services and make sure they link to the academic school day, using a strategic annual planning process.
- SUN Community Schools tailor their events, classes, services and activities to what the local community wants, through the use of an advisory body or bodies.
- SUN Community Schools build upon positive assets already in communities and link those with the activities offered in the school.
- SUN Community Schools bring together schools, community leaders and agency professionals to plan the best ways to support youth – in education, family involvement, and the community, providing services and making good use of community buildings.



Building a Brighter Future for Kids and their Families



*SUN Community Schools are a collaboration of Multnomah County Department of County Human Services, the City of Portland Parks and Recreation, nonprofits and local school districts*

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