

# Bull City Community Schools Partnership

A grassroots strategy  
to defend and transform our public schools



## We are the ones we've been waiting for: Immense potential in every child and every community

As parents, educators, and community members, we know that young people are too often held back from reaching their potential by factors beyond their control. As public schools are increasingly underfunded and under pressure, we looked to a bottom-up, strengths-based approach to school improvement.

**Community Schools** are “addicted to problem-solving,” deeply aware of the particularities of their local community, and use whole-child, research-based and innovative practices to achieve results that go beyond test scores. Community Schools leverage social relationships, small businesses, nonprofits and universities to address barriers to learning (hunger, stress, mistrust, insecure housing, lack of medical care) so that every child’s full attention is available to learn, inquire, try, and grow.

Durham Public Schools staff and parents campaigned in the spring of 2018 to pilot this model at five elementary schools. Thanks to investment by the district and the county, four of those schools began the school year with a full-time **Community School Coordinator**: a *collective impact strategist* who will strengthen the bridge between school and community.



**“Underserved communities** really need new ways of organizing to get real progress. When you have a lot of economic challenges, you need more organization to make change.” *Malcolm Goff, art teacher, E.K. Powe Elementary*



**“I like the empowerment** this has given the staff, and that feeling will help us create so much more of what we want to see.” *Katerina Dimov, ESL teacher, Southwest Elementary*

# The six pillars of the Community School model

1

**AUTHENTIC PARENT  
AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

2

**INCLUSIVE  
LEADERSHIP**

3

**HIGH-  
QUALITY  
TEACHING**

4

**CHALLENGING  
CURRICULUM**

5

**WRAPAROUND  
SUPPORT  
SERVICES**

6

**POSITIVE  
BEHAVIOR  
PRACTICES**

## Partners

Collaboration between these entities makes possible the Community Schools pilot within DPS:



**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**



## Donate

Your donation to the work of the Bull City Community Schools partnership supports:

- Staff time to advance the Community School strategy in the pilot elementary schools and in the district, building relationships and mapping community resources
- Programming for pilot schools such as parent leadership, race equity, and community organizing workshops
- Capacity-building for language access, increased home visits, or other programs as identified by school-based needs assessments

## MORE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL:

Visit [www.NEA.org/CommunitySchools](http://www.NEA.org/CommunitySchools) for information and resources about the strategy and to get connected to a network of Community School practitioners across the country.

## MORE ON THE MOVEMENT IN DURHAM:

Visit [www.BCCSP.org](http://www.BCCSP.org), like us on Facebook, or join our Facebook group, "Bull City Community Schools Partnership."

## DONATE NOW AT [BIT.LY/BCCSP](http://BIT.LY/BCCSP)

Or write a check to "Community Alliance for Public Education" with "BCCSP" in the memo line. Mail to: CAPE, c/o Southern Vision Alliance. P.O. Box 51698, Durham, NC 27717

