



Date: August 21, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: Kirsten Carr
Subject: Community Schools Program Update

Board Action

The Board will be receiving information regarding the Community Schools Partnership Program (CSPP) Planning Grant activities at Navigator Schools.

Background

At the beginning of the 2022/2023 school year Gilroy Prep School, Hollister Prep School, and Watsonville Prep School were each awarded \$200,000 for two-year planning grants. Hayward Collegiate was awarded a planning grant in March of 2023 with its first year starting in August; therefore, the activities described in this memo refer to GPS, HPS, and WPS.

The CSPP provides an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement. Development of the projects begins with a three-step, two-year planning process. The first step focused on community engagement to build awareness about the CS planning initiative. Each school site hired a Community Schools Coordinator and launched a Community School Advisory Council (CSAC). The CSACs have conducted focus groups, begun needs assessments, and connected with community partners. They also attended the Summit on the California Community Schools Program and had opportunities to meet with the regional technical training consultants.

The project is currently finalizing a comprehensive community asset mapping and gap analysis with the first few CSAC meetings of the school year dedicated to stamping those in preparation for the third and final step of drafting of a preliminary plan outlining proposed programs, services, and partnerships based on CSAC research and ideation. This pre-implementation plan will include a list of community organizations formally committed to joining the CS effort. The plan will describe the scope and scale of integrated support services, family and community engagement, and extended and/or expanded learning time and opportunities as envisioned by the CSAC and facilitated by the CSC.

After a successful planning period, each school will be eligible to apply for implementation grants. Implementation awards can be as high as \$500,000 per school and for at least five years.



Navigator Schools Community Schools

Kirsten Carr, Director of Engagement & Partnerships | August 29, 2023

Executive Summary

1. The 2021 California Community Schools Partnership Act provided \$4 Billion (through 2030) in grants for schools/districts to create an integrated approach focused on academics, health and social services, and family and community engagement.
2. Navigator Schools has received four 2-year planning grants (\$180,000 each) to develop applications for 5 year implementation grants of up to \$500,000.
3. Each school is working to discover the highest needs for their community.
4. We would love your input as we embark on next steps.

The 2021 CA Community Schools Partnership Act provided \$4 Billion (through 2030) in grants for schools/districts to create an integrated approach focused on academics, health and social services, and family and community engagement.



Not a program or initiative but a school improvement strategy to address inequities



Utilizes *whole child* approach with “an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement.



Becomes heart of the community while promoting empowerment, collaboration, & engagement



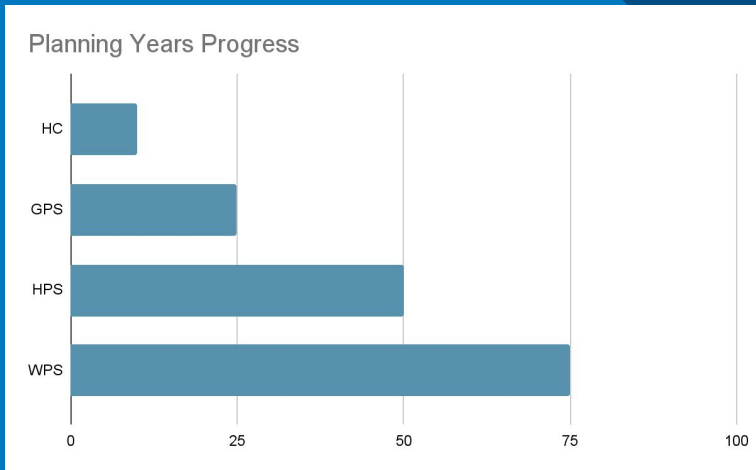
Navigator Schools has received four 2-year planning grants (\$180,000 each) to develop applications for implementation grants of up to \$500,000.

Planning Year One Activities

- Hire Community Schools Coordinators (CSC)
- Present overview of Community Schools and develop plan and priorities
- Develop, coordinate and facilitate advisory councils
- Participate and support with school events
- Review and identify data indicators (e.g. chronic absenteeism, suspensions)
- Meet with school site staff to gather information on needs, history of service delivery, available services provided by school staff
- Identify current parent engagement strategies, practices and services & identify champion parents that will help engage future parents

Planning Year Two Activities

- Conduct needs assessment
- Create a strategy for continuously strengthening shared ownership for the Community School
- School personnel, community partners, leaders, and families publicly celebrate successes, and advocate for Community Schools
- Create a plan and process to sustain funding for the Community School is in place
- Prepare budgets to help sustain the Community School.
- Community partners commit to a long-term relationship with the school to support the Community School partnership.
- Community partners help generate funding for programs that will be operated under the umbrella of the Community School.
- Apply for Implementation grant



Where are we in our efforts to apply for an implementation grant?

During year one, Hayward Collegiate is going to launch the planning process to identify the needs and opportunities for a Community School on the HC campus



- Hired Mohammed Abdalla - 50% Community Schools and 50% After-school coordinator
 - Community Schools activities will launch in late September
-

During year one GPS hired a Community Schools Coordinator, started focus groups, and created a Community Schools Advisory Council (CSAC)



- Vanessa Miller was offered the CSC position in August 2022, transitioned out of the classroom in January, 2023, and returned from maternity leave in May, 2023
 - CSAC was created
 - Staff toured established Community Schools
 - Morgan Hill
 - Bakersfield
 - Held initial focus groups
 - High School Success Support
 - Community involvement
 - Social Emotional Learning Support
 - Staff attended Community Schools Summit
 - Created calendar of events to engage the community
-

During year one HPS hired a Community Schools Coordinator, started focus groups, and created a Community Schools Advisory Council (CSAC), supported attendance efforts, and held a resource fair.



- Blanca Silva Guzman transitioned out of the classroom at HPS and into the CSC role in January, 2023
- Created CSAC
- Organized tours of and meetings with community schools in California
 - Bakersfield
 - Morgan Hill
 - Attended Community Schools Summit
- Oversaw high school tutoring program
- Provided support for families during floods
- Held Focus Groups
- Held Family Resource Fair

HPS discovered a huge need for transportation services, among other things.

Focus Group Highlighted Needs & Next Steps

Transportation

Activities for students and families after school

Career fairs

Tools to access community resources (housing, legal aid, college)

Community events at school

Parent Education Opportunities

Support for English Language learners

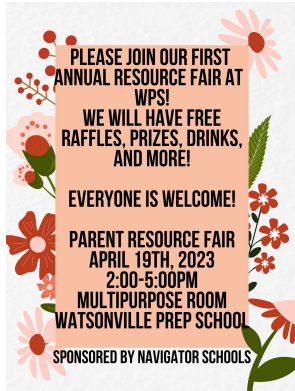
Strengthen relationship with Boys & Girls Club

Ties to community mental health support

Support for success in high school



During year one WPS hired a Community Schools Coordinator, started focus groups, and created a Community Schools Advisory Council (CSAC), supported attendance efforts, and held a resource fair.



- Rita Castaneda transitioned from her role as Community Engagement Facilitator for Navigator Schools to WPS CSC in August, 2022.
- Rita supported the efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism at WPS through the spring, 2023
- The CSAC was created and held monthly meetings
- Held its inaugural Family Resource Fair
- Presented at Head Starts, churches, local preschools
- Provided support for families during floods
- Attended Community Schools Summit
- Supported McKinney Vento needs & resource identification

City of Watsonville Parks & Recreation
 National Alliance on Mental Health
 Santa Cruz County Youth Services
 Cabrillo Community College
 Watsonville Fire & Police
 Barrios Unidos
 Envision Fitness and Nutrition
 Watsonville Library
 Activities 4 All

YMCA
 WIC
 Community Health Trust of Pajaro Valley

The need at WPS focused on a true wrap around approach, including support to navigate community resources.

Focus Group Highlighted Needs & next steps

Parent education with childcare

Activities for students and families after school

Laundry services

Tools to access community resources (housing, legal aid, college)

Importance of school attendance

Parent Education Opportunities

Support for English Language learners

Ties to community mental health support

Support for success in high school



We would love your input as we embark on next steps.



Thank you!