

City School District of Albany 2020-21 Legislative Priorities Maintain Community Schools Funding

The City School District of Albany has invested our \$4.5 million Community Schools allocation for 2019-20 in a wide range of programs and services at eight schools to benefit our students and families. We fully support the state's continued investment in Community Schools and are committed to using those valuable resources to grow the Community Schools model so that we can provide more of the important additional resources that our students and families need.

Our Community Schools investments for 2019-20 have included:

- Launching two new Community Schools at Edmund J. O'Neal Middle School of Excellence and Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School this school year. We also have sustained our Community Schools investments at Arbor Hill Elementary School, Giffen Memorial Elementary School, Philip Schuyler Achievement Academy, Sheridan Preparatory Academy, Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology and the Tony Clement Center for Education.
- Supporting extended learning opportunities and other programs and services for students and families in partnership with community organizations. Examples include:
 - **Arbor Hill Elementary School** – The Lunch and Learn Homework Café, a monthly gathering for parents and guardians to help them help their children with homework and other school assignments.
 - **Giffen Memorial Elementary School** – The We Are Giffen Family Laundry Room provides free laundry facilities for Giffen families. Lacking clean clothes and laundry facilities can be barriers to student attendance. The Giffen laundry room addresses household needs, offers volunteer opportunities to parents and families that use it and positively affects school attendance.
 - **Sheridan Preparatory Academy** – Serving 180 students in extended-day programs, activities include Mad Lab (STEM), basketball and tennis, photography, gardening and healthy eating, dance, reading, character development and mentorship programs.
 - **Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST)** – The Read and Rise Literacy Program meets twice a month with parents, caregivers and children from birth to age 4. It encourages adults to read to their children early on and begin teaching sight words they'll need to know before entering school.
- Staffing for our innovative Albany International Center, which serves refugee and immigrant students in grades 6-12. This program provides the intensive language-support skills that English-language learners require, as well as additional academic and social-emotional supports to assist with their adjustment to a new culture and community.
- Continuing to support Community Schools staffing and professional development.

(over)

VISION STATEMENT

The City School District of Albany will be a district of excellence with caring relationships and engaging learning experiences that provide equitable opportunities for all students to reach their potential.

MISSION STATEMENT

We will work in partnership with our diverse community to engage every learner in a robust educational program designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for success.

These and many other programs supported by our Community Schools funding all are valuable investments for our students and families and we applaud the state for supporting our district in this way. Community Schools are allowing us to build supports that our students and families need and deserve. Without the state's commitment to Community Schools, we would not have the financial resources to maintain these programs without simultaneously dismantling academic and social-emotional programs and services that also support our students.

We urge the state to maintain a long-term financial commitment to Community Schools funding to allow us to maintain and continue to grow the model.