

City School District of Albany 2021-22 Legislative Priorities Maintain Community Schools Funding

Due to the COVID-19 fiscal crisis and the related guidance from the state at the start of the 2020-21 school year, the City School District of Albany has designed our Community Schools programming anticipating a 20% reduction in our \$4.5 million Community Schools allocation for the current school year. However, this support is invaluable to our district. We continue to invest in a wide range of programs and services at seven 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 2020-21 have included:

- Sustaining Community Schools models at seven buildings: Arbor Hill Elementary School, Edmund J. O'Neal Middle School of Excellence, 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. These activities include:
 - Workshops for parents and guardians to help them be advocates and facilitators for their children's education.
 - Encouraging and empowering student voice
 - Student character development
 - Extended-day programs
 - Hands-on STEM opportunities for students
- Our Community Schools also continue to address food insecurity through partnerships with the Capital District Food Pantry, Homeless and Travelers Aid Society, and the Regional Food Bank. In addition, three of the schools – Giffen, Schuyler and Sheridan Prep – serve as school-based health centers, at no cost to families, through a partnership with Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Services.
- Continuing to support Community Schools staffing and professional development.

These and many other programs and opportunities 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.

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.