

# Poughkeepsie

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**our children • our schools • our community**



**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** GUIDE

TOGETHER WE ARE CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN



# District Mission & Vision



## Mission

We are champions of children who inspire and nurture the whole child by providing innovative, high-quality educational opportunities that prepare all students to embark on individual paths of success in a globally diverse community.

## Vision

The Poughkeepsie City School District is committed to providing equitable, high-quality education for all students that enables them to explore and maximize their fullest potential.



# Introduction to Community Schools



In 2020, the Poughkeepsie City School District (PCSD) designated all seven of its schools as Community Schools.

The decision behind the designation was to create schools that serve as community beacons, bringing together school and community resources to improve student success and create stronger families and healthier communities.

Given the fact that a child's waking hours between kindergarten and high school amounts to 20 percent in the school environment and 80 percent in the community, it is imperative that a school, home, and community approach is employed to holistically address the evolving and emerging needs of children.

Across the country, community schools build bridges between school, home, and community that will better guarantee that children find success in and out of school.

## PCSD Community Schools provide:

- Partnerships with an array of community organizations and stakeholders interested in academic success and positive youth development of PCSD students
- Arts and music programming in every school
- Full-time school librarians
- Social workers in every school
- Crisis Intervention Specialist in every school
- Mental Health Clinics (PMS and PHS)
- Funding to increase the number of school field trips
- Extended learning opportunities
- 1:1 Instructional devices to us for students and instructional staff
- Liaisons to increase new and cultivate existing community partnerships and parental engagement
- Parent supports and free workshops and credentialing classes
- Online age and developmentally-appropriate literacy resources

Community  
Schools  
video





# Community Schools Model

The Poughkeepsie City School District Model is designed to support the success of the whole child and family by providing opportunity and access to resources, services, programs, and community connections that support success-in-and-out of school and beyond the Pk-12 continuum.

The Poughkeepsie City School District Community School model focuses on five pillars: Early Learning – Pre-natal to Pre-school, Integrated Student and Family Supports, High Level Community and Family Engagement, Expanded and Enriched Learning Opportunities, and Collaborative Leadership Practice intended to:

- Implement strong educational programs which reduce learning gaps, enrich and expand the curriculum, and strengthen parent and community engagement throughout all schools.
- Implement high quality extended day and year-long programs of excellence (e.g., academic, cultural, artistic, athletic, and needs-based).
- Coordinate local resources to offer medical, dental, health, and wellness for families.
- Extend PCSD's involvement in the Prenatal to College & Career Success youth development space.





# Community Schools Pillars

## Early Learning (Pre-natal to Pre-school)

Focuses on providing and aligning school and community resources, services, and programming to support the age-and developmentally-appropriate stages of child development beginning prenatal through preschool. The goal is to support the intellectual, social, emotional, and wellness development of all Poughkeepsie children so that they are PreK and Kindergarten ready upon entering the Poughkeepsie City School District.

## Integrated Student and Family Supports

Focuses on promoting the integration of educational services with comprehensive health and social services to address critical barriers to learning and whole child development.

## High-level Community and Family Engagement

Community Schools function as neighborhood hubs that support student and family success. The focus is to provide and facilitate high-level opportunities for school, home, and community to come together in supporting families that make up our community.

## Expanded and Enriched Learning Opportunities

Focuses on providing and aligning school and community resources, services, and programming to support the academic and positive youth development of Poughkeepsie City School District students. The goal is to provide a seamless network of school and community programming that students have access to year-round.

## Collaborative Leadership Practice

Parents, students, teachers, building leaders, and community stakeholders all play major roles in cultivating the whole child. Through collective trust, shared responsibility, and supporting a child-centered approach, the academic, social, emotional, and wellness outcomes for children will remain paramount.

Learn more  
about PCSD  
Community  
Schools





# Goals & Outcomes

The Poughkeepsie City School District Community Schools Initiative is designed and implemented as part of the turnaround strategy for all Poughkeepsie City School District schools. The full service model ensures that children are supported academically, physically, emotionally, and socially to succeed in and out of the school environment and, just as importantly, beyond their high school engagement.

**The specific metrics that the Poughkeepsie City School District model will seek to impact are:**

- Academic achievement
- Student attendance
- Student and parent engagement
- Access to adult education programs within the community
- The number of participants attending the after-school/ Saturday programs
- School culture and climate
- Student leadership in school/ community
- The health and wellness of students
- The social-emotional well-being of students
- Community engagement in the schools (higher education, business, city, county, community and faith-based organizations)
- Safe routes to schools for students



# Lights Initiative

High level community and family engagement serves as a cornerstone to the district's Community Schools' Initiative, which has origins in the district's Light's Initiative. Today the Lights Initiative serves as a flagship component of the Community Schools Initiative. It is a partnership between dedicated staff and community members to provide PCSD youth with an extended learning environment where they can develop positively as youth. "The Lights Initiative began as a school and community response to the uptick of violence in the City of Poughkeepsie on the weekends. We wanted to offer the children a safe space to learn, socialize and just be a kid outside of the school day," Natasha Brown, executive director of community schools, said. Since its inception, over 1,500 children and families have benefited from programming and services provided by community partners and district personnel. Saturday Morning Lights and Summer Lights are two of the most highly-engaging extended learning programs in PCSD recent history.

- **Saturday Morning Lights**

The Poughkeepsie City School District Community Schools flagship initiative that provides PCSD students in grades PreK-12 and their families the opportunity to engage in academic enrichment, positive youth development, and family bonding experiences.

- **Summer Lights**

This summer program is for students in grades 2-7 providing positive youth development opportunities for students in grades 2-7. Summer Lights is unique in that its programmatic facilities are outside of the school environment, taking place in Bartlett Park during the summers of 2020, 2021, and most recently at Camp Nooteeming in Pleasant Valley, NY, in partnership with Dutchess County Youth Services.







# Parent and Community Engagement

PCSD's Office of Community Schools hosts workshops, programs and events throughout the year designed to meet the needs of the community and bring everyone together. The focus is to provide and facilitate high-level opportunities for school, home and community to come together and support families that make up our community and the children who will one day serve as adult members of our community. The menu of workshops, programs and events offered address the academic, social and emotional needs of PCSD students in partnership with parents and the community.

In addition to these smaller offerings, the office hosts three district wide parent and community engagement events to share information, engage in meaningful activity designed to strengthen partnerships and celebrate our children.

- **Bridge to Poughkeepsie**

Welcomes new families to the Poughkeepsie City School District. The event provides them with information about the district, various resources, and supports offered to parents and students. Community-based organizations also provide information and resources to families to make them more aware of the rich supports that exist in the community.

- **Back to School Bash**

Is an annual event designed to celebrate the start of the new school year. District staff, community partners, and elected officials are present to provide information and resources designed to strengthen students' success throughout the school year. Community partners donate book bags for families who indicate a need.

- **Elevating Families - Parent and Family Engagement Festival**

Celebrates the partnership between school, home, and community. The event provides parents important school and community information to help with summer planning for their children. The festival also provides students with specially-created book bags full of educational materials for use during the summer.

# Community Schools Partnerships

Learn  
about our  
partners



Meeting the needs of Poughkeepsie City School District students requires meaningful and authentic collaboration between school and community. While educational institutions are important to the fabric of every community, schools by themselves are not structured to address the varying and evolving social, emotional, and wellness needs of all children.

Our focus as a community must always be on what we can accomplish together to position City of Poughkeepsie children to achieve success in school and beyond. A well-coordinated school and community approach will amplify our impact on meeting student needs.

Poughkeepsie City School District partners with a wide array of agencies, institutions, and organizations that provide one or more of the following supports to PCSD students and/or families:

- Academic
- Attendance improvement
- Health and wellness
- Social and emotional supports
- Positive youth development enrichment opportunities
- College and career readiness
- Family supports (parents and caregivers)

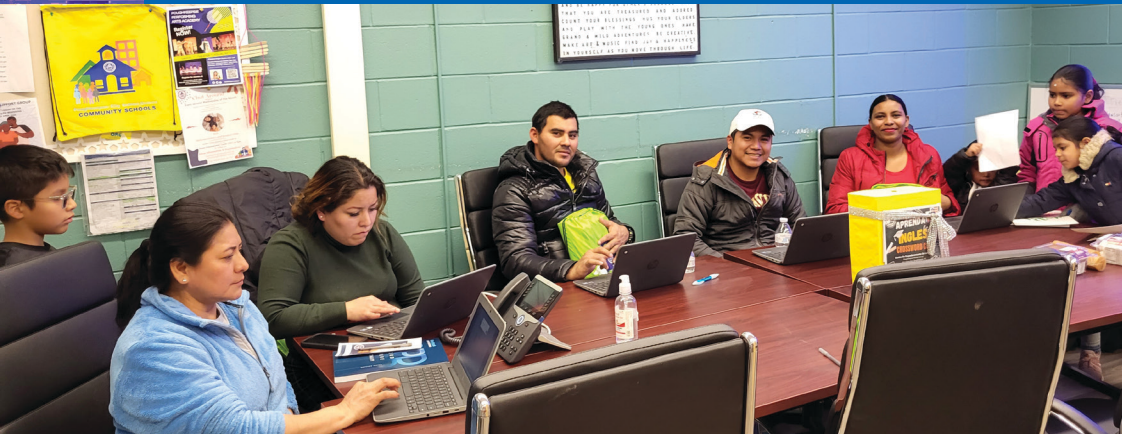




# Parent Empowerment Centers

- Free parent empowerment workshops • Prek-12 academic resources
- Computers with internet access • Job readiness supports
- English as second language classes
- Voter registration information • And so much more

The Parent Empowerment Center is a one-stop shop for parents and caregivers who need assistance with navigating the school district, learning new strategies to support their child's learning, and engaging in many opportunities to strengthen family bonds. Parents and caregivers will arrive to a warm atmosphere where opportunities to collaborate, access resources, supports, and educational workshops will be made available. Parents will be greeted and assisted by a Parent Empowerment Center Liaison who will be eager to assist with a variety of services and resources.



## Location and Contact information:

Warring ES - 283 Mansion St.  
845-451-4751

Monday - Friday.....12:30 pm – 4 pm

Poughkeepsie MS - 55 W. College Ave.  
845-451-4900 ext. 1425

Monday.....8:30 am – 4 pm  
Tuesday - Thursday.....8:30 am – 6 pm\*  
Friday...8:30 am – 4 pm | 4:30 am – 6 pm\*

\*by appointment only



# Community Schools Staff Contact Info

The Community Schools Office is staffed by members who are excited to support student success through partnering with parents, community members and organizations.

**Executive Director**  
845-451-4900 ext. 0779

**Program Assistant**  
845-451-4900 ext. 1425

**PHS & PMS Liaison**  
**PHS:** 845-451-4850  
**PMS:** 845-451-4800

**ELC WW Smith Liaison**  
845-451-4720

**Clinton ES Liaison**  
845-451-4600

**Warring ES Liaison**  
845-451-4570

**Krieger ES Liaison**  
845-451-4660

**Morse ES Liaison**  
845-451-4690



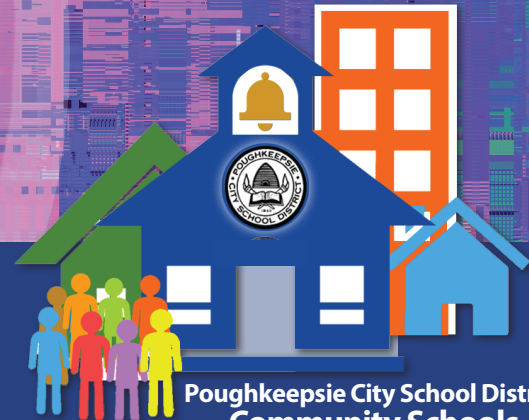
Community Schools transform schools into places where educators, community members, families, and students work together to create opportunities for students to maximize their potential in and out of the school environment. To achieve this, Poughkeepsie City School District Community Schools Model provides students and parents with an array of services, programs, and supports:

- Strong Academics & Innovative Technology
- After-school & Saturday Programs
- Extracurricular Opportunities
- College Readiness and Workforce Education Opportunities
- Parent Empowerment Centers
- Adult & Community Education Programs
- Health Clinics
- Mental Health Clinics
- Legal Clinics
- Higher Education, Business and Community Partnerships



[www.poughkeepsieschools.org/communityschools](http://www.poughkeepsieschools.org/communityschools)

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Eileen Scholes, *Director*  
Irwin Goldberg, *Public Information Officer*  
Désirée Gagnon, *Graphic Designer*



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Community Schools

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