

# How to Become a Recognized Community School in Texas

Community schools are high-quality neighborhood schools, doing whatever it takes to make sure that EVERY CHILD is provided a great education.

## In particular, a community school . . .

- Engages families and communities in planning for the success of all students.
- Is shaped by the unique needs of the individual school community.
- Has high-quality academic programs from PK-12 for ALL students, preparing students for college and career.
- Provides for academic, social, emotional and physical development.
- Brings together a range of community partners to offer supports for students and families, including healthcare and adult education.
- Coordinates supports to be both efficient and effective.
- Has rich extra-curricular and out-of-school time student programs.
- Serves as a community hub.



## To learn more about community schools, go to:

Coalition for Community Schools @  
[www.communityschools.org](http://www.communityschools.org)

Save Texas Schools @  
[www.savetxschools.org](http://www.savetxschools.org)



## The Road to Becoming a Community School

### 1. Learn About Community Schools

Go online, make a site visit and talk to people who are experienced in developing community schools.

### 2. Form a School-Community Partnership Team

Ask key community partners, volunteers, alumni, parents, teachers, staff and administration to join this team that will guide the planning process.

### 3. Conduct a Campus and Community Asset/Needs Assessment

Use public meetings, surveys, focus groups, interviews and other data to find out about your strengths, challenges and resources.

### 4. Create a Community School Plan

Led by your School-Community Partnership team, form a plan that addresses barriers to learning, improves existing academic instruction, brings new programs and resources, and involves the community.

### 5. Connect with a Lead Nonprofit or Community Partner

Find a local nonprofit or community organization to help support you as you implement your plan.

### 6. Gain Approval of the Plan by at least 75% of Parents, Teachers and Staff

Community Schools are bottom-up, not top-down. Support from the parents and campus is vital for your plan to succeed.

### 7. Gain Approval of your School Board.

Present your plan to your School Board for approval and adoption.