



INNOVATION AND STUDENT SUCCESS

*Growing Children and
Closing the Poverty Learning Gap*

Creativity and Collaboration

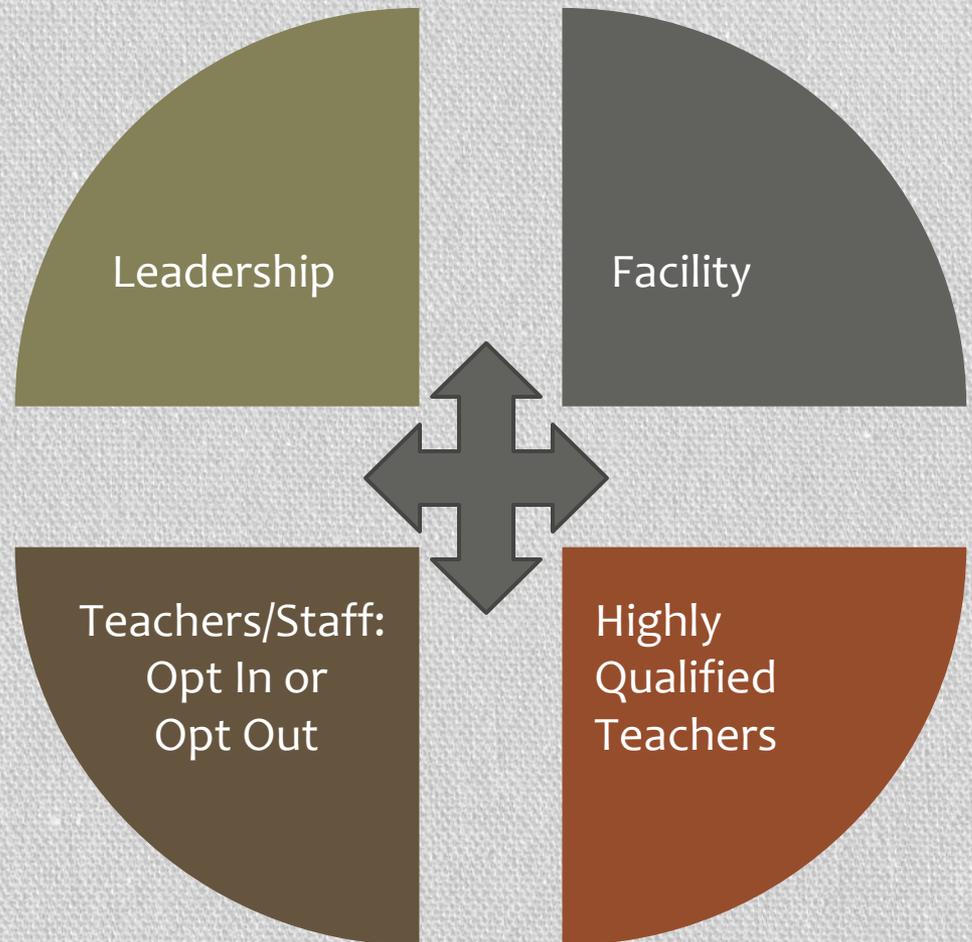
- At the forefront in all discussions about New Mexico's education system is the desire to improve academic outcomes of all children.
- In the current environment where our children are seeing more standardized testing in place of learning time, it is essential to dig deep to see what does work in our communities to improve success. Can that success be measured by more than a test score?
- Albuquerque Public Schools has many creative approaches that are helping to inspire children, families and schools to collaborate for kids' success. And we've got the data to back up the success.

Case Study No. 1: Emerson Elementary School

The problems were evident:

- School grade of F: SBA data in reading/math in the teens with no growth.
- High mobility: 91 percent
- High Poverty: 100% of students qualified for free and reduced lunch
- High Absenteeism: In 2011-12 school year, 552 absences and late arrivals
- High Discipline Referrals: In 2011-12, 515 referrals

APS, Union Collaboration



Redesign Elements

Community Relationships

What assets could be drawn on?

1. ABC Community School Partnership
2. Boys and Girls Club
3. City of Albuquerque
4. UNM Family Development
5. Abriendo Puertas ECE
6. Encuentro
7. First Nations Community HealthSource
8. APS committed \$1 million to redesign

Learning Environment

What did teachers/staff pledge?

1. Compensated for extra time in professional development and collaboration
2. Learned positive behavioral interventions and supports
3. Mind in the Making: 7 Essential Life Skills

Outcomes

The results in two years:

- School grade improved to C for two years
- Survey data from students, families and staff reflect positive response to redesign
- Improved mobility: 83% in 2013-14 from 91%
- Slight improvement in absenteeism: 448 in 2013-14 from 552
- Decrease in Discipline Referrals: 184 in 2013-14 from 515
- Improved SBA reading/math scores

Emerson Redesign Gets National Attention From U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan



CASE STUDY NO. 2: HOMEWORK DINER

- **The problems were evident:**
- The school recognized the need to get parents involved. But how?
- APS has seen the evidence that providing wrap-around services is a key ingredient to student achievement

POVERTY

If kids are hungry, school is difficult

- 31% of New Mexico's children live in poverty, according to 2013 Kids Count data. That's 113,000 children in New Mexico.
- In 2012, Manzano Mesa piloted a program that would offer homework assistance to children and their families while also providing them dinner.

Here is how that program fared.

Parent Engagement Has Positive Outcomes

Manzano Mesa's goals were to:

- involve parents in the school/after school community;
- engage parents in their child's academic development;
- invite communication between home and school;
- give parents support for homework help and ideas they can use at home.



NBC News photo

During the pilot, average attendance fluctuated between 35-55. Now attendance has grown to 100 or more participants (students, siblings of students, parents, teachers, volunteers, etc.)

Cost: \$111 per student. This cost is offset by grants and donations, which increased after the NBC Nightly News story by Chelsea Clinton.

CNM also is reaching out to the high school culinary programs so those students can also participate in Homework Diner while learning about CNM's culinary program.

Partnerships: Key to Academic Success

Result of Homework Diner:

- More open relationships between teachers and parents; between Spanish and English speaking families
- More involvement from our Asian community
- The formation of a Spanish Literacy Adult Education class to help parents in need of greater literacy skills in their native language;
- ESL class for parents;
- Parent-led English Conversation group
- Creation of a site specific internship with CNM
- Children who struggle to complete or understand homework are more successful
- Middle school siblings bring their homework and are tutored as needed

Video clip of Homework Diner

- <http://www.nbcnews.com/watch/nightly-news/homework-diner-serves-up-education-with-a-side-of-food-286149187704>

Homework Diner has expanded to 10 schools in Albuquerque
When children – and by extension – their families -- are welcomed with home-cooked meals and tutoring assistance, then academic achievement is truly possible.



Photo courtesy: NBC News

Case Study No. 3: Student Success Center

Atrisco Heritage High School transformed a former In-School Suspension (ISS) site to a place that kids call their home away from home.

It's a welcoming place to go when frustrations are high and/or when problems are overwhelming.

SOMEONE WHO SHOWS THEY CARE

APS' newest high school in the Southwest area is the largest high school in the state and serves one of our poorest areas of the city. AHA is also named a Reward School. How?



Transforming How to Help Kids

- **Disciplinary Approach:**

- Campus security officers
- Students who violated campus rules or had run-ins with campus security would be automatically suspended or sent to ISS. This disciplinary approach is how most high schools function.
- Two deans of students: One for freshmen and one for 10-12 grades
- Deans/security officers would handle punishments

- **Redirection Approach:**

- The former ISS site, adjacent to the campus security office and the administrative leaders, was transformed into a Student Success Center (SSC).
- Staffed by one full-time teacher and one full-time EA. Both men are qualified educators with master's degrees and a great desire to work with the kids on a personal level.
- Two deans of students: One for freshmen and one for 10-12 grades.
- Students sent to deans. Dean directs students to appropriate services.

How it works:

1. Case by case determination: Home suspensions still an option but the SSC is trying to avoid this as an alternative except in the cases of a federal or state crime being committed
2. Teachers can fill out an online form from their desks, requesting intervention. Students sent to SSC or dean's office.
3. Deans can determine whether a student can be helped by SSC.
4. Campus police work with deans and SSC staff for best outcomes.
5. Truancy/Tardies: Students who are tardy go to after-school detention, where they do writing assignment. If they skip detention, SSC staff calls them out of class the next morning.

In the Student Success Center:

- Student and coordinator talk. Personal relationships are being built with coordinator and students.
- Students “on the radar” for disciplinary or other infractions must report to the center weekly to “check in” and are called in regularly to make sure they are staying on track.
- SCC is also helping to keep track of students taking credit recovery courses.

Building Relationships

With \$5,000 in donations received through [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com):

- Students receiving assistance are getting one-on-one support via community services, counseling.
- Students working through their difficulties by being empowered to find their “voice”.
- Books are a huge part of the SSC effort.
- A UNMH full-service health clinic also assists students, their families. It acts as an additional liaison for students.



RESULTS

- Tardies are reduced between first Six Weeks of 2013 and first Six Weeks of this year.
- Students who were once considered “trouble-makers” are checking in and many times seek out the SSC when they are frustrated or need encouragement.
- Still some work to do. Some teachers have been frustrated when their students want to be in SSC instead of their class! So the SSC staff is working with teachers to build relationships and work out solutions.

Future Challenges

- Funding two full-time employees for the SSC.
- Funding the little extras that the center is providing: books, small library, etc.

Other Innovative Approaches

- CNM High School: earning diploma and associates' degree
- e-Cademy: credit recovery
- AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination
- International Baccalaureate High School at Sandia High
- Redesigning our older schools – Del Norte High School
- Extended learning day at all comprehensive high schools

For Further Information About
Any of These Initiatives:

Contact:

Kathy Korte, Board Member
kathy_korte@q.com

Brenda Yager, APS Board Services
yager@aps.edu