

Overview

Schools as Community Hubs is a strategy for organizing the resources of the community around student success. This initiative is intended to make a school – a place that already acts as a natural anchor for kids – the center of an entire neighborhood. Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports, and opportunities leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier neighborhoods.

A Hub School is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources, and is characterized by extended hours, wraparound services, and coordinated school-community relationships.

Toledo Public Schools (TPS) and its strategic partners collaborate in the execution of the Schools as Community Hubs Strategy, utilizing the strengths of their institutions and organizations to advance the work. This includes shared ownership of various roles within the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Hub strategy. To ensure a collaborative approach, all entities recognize the following values that drive Schools as Community Hubs:

- **Community voice is vital to the successful implementation of the strategy.** “Community” is defined by those with a vested interest in an area and includes school administration, teachers, other staff, students, parents, neighborhood residents, local businesses, local political leaders, and others.
- There are **four key pillars** that together create the conditions necessary for students to thrive:
 1. **Integrated Student Supports** – A Hub Director coordinates support programs to address out-of-school learning barriers for students and families. Mental and physical health services support student success.
 2. **Expanded and Enriched Learning Time** – Enrichment activities emphasize real-world learning and community problem solving. After-school, weekend, and summer programs provide academic instruction and individualized support.
 3. **Active Family and Community Engagement** – Schools function as neighborhood hubs. There are educational and programming opportunities for adults, and family members, as well as community members are invited to be equal partners in promoting success for students and members of the surrounding community.
 4. **Collaborative Leadership and Practices** – Parents, students, teachers, principals, and community partners build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility through site-based leadership teams and teacher learning communities.
- **All children and families benefit from access** to resources, opportunities, and supports to advance learning and healthy development.

- Hubs must be designed to **match local context**.

The hallmarks of the Schools as Community Hubs strategy include resources that promote a comprehensive approach to education, none of which will conflict with existing collective bargaining agreements or the instructional goals of the school:

- Academic supports and enrichment.
- Parent engagement and involvement.
- In school, after school, and out of school time enrichment activities.
- Medical, dental, and mental health services.
- Increased access to social services.
- Life skills, job placement, and employer training and education programming.
- Community and economic development opportunities.

Background Information

Schools as Community Hubs (Hubs) launched in Toledo in 2011 as a collaborative effort between Toledo Public Schools (TPS) and United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT). Until 2023, TPS and UWGT shared responsibility for financing and administration of the strategy in its adaptation of the national community schools model. In 2023, TPS took the lead as the sole funder of Hub operations, and invested in local, trusted community entities to lead the work at the school and neighborhood levels. While the strategy has evolved over the years, key foundational elements identified above remain.

The mission of the Hubs is to align resources to create thriving communities resulting in everyone achieving their potential. Hubs envision a safe and healthy community where everyone has the opportunity for growth and success.

During the 2023-2024 school year, there are six full-service community Hubs in TPS: Pickett, Reynolds, and Riverside Elementaries, Rogers and Scott High Schools, and Jones Leadership Academy of Business. More information about these Hubs can be found in the [FAQ](#). Lead Partners include New Concepts, The Art Tatum Zone, Junior Achievement of Northwest Ohio Pathway for Successful Leadership, and the YMCA. Several community leaders participate in Hub Advisory Teams, and more than 40 community partners provide resources to the students, families, and residents of the TPS Hubs. These community partners include Health Partners of Western Ohio, RFS Behavioral Health, Unison Health, A Better Life to Embrace, LLC, New Concepts, the Toledo Museum of Art, Junior Achievement, Boys and Girls Clubs, After School All Stars, Connecting Kids to Meals, and several others.