



UCF

THE UCF CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

The Community School Model

Community schools are an evidence-based educational solution which addresses inequities in our most under-resourced communities. They focus on removing academic barriers by providing high-quality programs and vital services for students, to create conditions in which children learn and thrive.

Partnerships play a key role in community schools. Schools partner with community organizations to bring in local resources and services that address the needs of students and their families. These include medical and behavioral healthcare, food assistance, tutoring and mentoring, and opportunities for family and community engagement.

Community schools have a stabilizing effect, supporting student success, strengthening families and unifying communities.

Partnering for Success in Florida

Inspired by the promise of community schools leaders from the University of Central Florida (UCF) and Children’s Home Society of Florida (CHS) partnered in 2009 to bring a community school model to Florida. Along with Orange County Public Schools and a healthcare provider, they brought the community school model to Evans High School in Orlando. Within one year, the graduation rates began to rise. In the decade that followed, graduation rates increased from 64% to a 98% — a remarkable 35 percent increase.

The Community Partnership Schools™ Model

The unique combination of partners supporting Evans — a university, nonprofit, school district and healthcare provider — and the partners’ long-term commitment to the school led UCF and CHS to name the approach the Community Partnership Schools™ model of community schools.

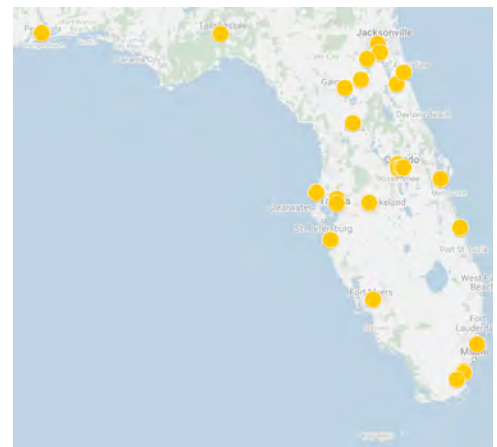
 **UCF Center for Community Schools**
SERVES 26 SCHOOLS IN 17 DISTRICTS

Expansion and Milestones

2014 ➡ Florida Legislature allocates **\$685,000** in funding to establish Community Partnership Schools and to launch the **UCF Center for Community Schools**.

2018 ➡ Florida Legislature allocates **\$1.4 million** in funding for 9 schools.

2019 ➡ Florida Legislature allocates **\$7.1 million** in funding for 10 schools, establishes the Community School Grant Program and **names the UCF Center for Community Schools** as the grant program administrator.



UCF Center Is a Leader

National and international community school leaders have taken note of the UCF Center for Community Schools' success in creating, supporting and certifying community schools in Florida. The center's advisory board includes national and international community school leaders.

Moreover, the London-based International Centre for Excellence of Community Schools named the UCF center as its first international hub in 2018. The center is now offering guidance to community school efforts globally.

Recently, the center hosted site visits by educators representing British Council Wales and Duke University.

The UCF Center for Community Schools is poised to expand its capacity to create and advance the community school model in Florida and beyond.

Philanthropic support will enable the center to conduct benchmark studies, scale its model, share best practices and contribute to systems-level change

To learn more, contact center Director Amy Ellis at 407-823-2723 or amy.ellis@ucf.edu.

OUR VISION

WE SEE A WORLD WHERE ALL STUDENTS
REALIZE THEIR GREATEST POTENTIAL.

Impact*

The challenge of improving education in lower socioeconomic income areas is compounded by issues of inadequate food, housing and healthcare. Community schools adopt a whole-child approach and work to address these issues and help children and families succeed.

23,644 STUDENTS SERVED

14,001 INDIVIDUALIZED EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

164,539 HOURS OF COMMUNITY MEMBER VOLUNTEERING

8,748 WELLNESS SUPPORT VISITS

9,227 MENTORING HOURS FROM THE COMMUNITY

**Total Fiscal Year Data Reported in 2019-20*

Success Stories

- OCPS ACE ➡ **71% decrease in discipline referrals** from 2017-18 to 2018-19
- C. A. Weis Elementary School ➡ **out-of-school suspensions decreased from 425 in 2015-16 to 113 in 2017-18.**
- Endeavour Elementary School ➡ **teacher retention rate increased from 69% in 2016-17 to 94% in 2018-19.**

UCF Certification

The UCF Center for Community Schools worked with partners across the state to develop an innovative rigorous, strengths-based certification process to ensure each schools meets Community Partnership School™ standards. Earning the title of UCF-Certified Community Partnership School represents years of work focused on student success and well-being and is a distinct honor for the schools.

