

CINCINNATI, OHIO – A Broader, BOLDER Approach

Then: Enrollment declined from 90,000 in 1970 to 45,000 in 1999, while the student body went from 70% middle class and above to 70% poverty during that time. By 2001, the graduation rate was just 52%.

Now: Enrollment declines have been reversed, with nearly 6,000 more students than projected.

Strategy for change:

Community Learning Centers (CLCS)

- **Coalition:** Site-based decision-making process led by Local School Decision-Making Committee comprised of parents, volunteers, community business leaders, school staff, non-profit neighborhood groups, and community organizations. Resource coordinators engage community.
- **Comprehensive services:** Vary by school, based on needs, but all include resource coordinators. Services include health clinics for students and community members; support services; after-school and summer enrichment; evening programs for parents and adults, arts centers, community events; and college-access counseling. “Each school community was to establish goals, assess needs, and develop the kind of programming and partnerships that would support student success and contribute to the vitality of the neighborhood.”
- **Funding:** Leveraged \$1 billion for 2002 Facilities Master Plan to rebuild and renovate all of the city’s schools. Resource coordinator at each site leverages average \$2 million to ensure sustained funding through grants, third-party billing, and other blended sources.



Indicators of success:

- Cincinnati, Ohio’s highest-rated urban district, is the first to receive an “effective” rating.
- High school graduation rates have increased dramatically from 2000 to 2009.
- The black-white achievement gap in test scores has substantially narrowed in that time.
- Winton Hills Academy CLC was one of seven national semifinalists for the 2007 Richard Riley Award for Schools as Centers of the Community.
- At Pleasant Ridge Montessori, enrollment has doubled as new young families have been attracted to the CLC, resulting in increased property values and neighborhood vitality.
- Oyler CLC, which added high school grades to K-8, graduated its first senior class in 2010; local media reported on the extremely high graduation rate compared to prior decades.

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