

Community Schools Fact Sheet

Higher Ground is in its first year as the lead agency in creating community schools in Tucson's high-needs neighborhoods. Current TUSD sites include C E Rose K-8, Hollinger K-8, Pueblo High School, Palo Verde High School, Booth-Fickett K-8 Magnet School,

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS are school-based resource hubs that offer programs to students and community members during afterschool hours, including summer months and weekends. This model based on the highly successful model developed by Children's Aid in New York. Local partners are working together to ensure integrated support in academics, health, social services, youth development, and community engagement.

RESEARCH SHOWS that this site-based delivery model leads to increased school attendance, higher graduation rates, enhanced family engagement in student education, reduces absenteeism and improved post-graduation success. Families accessing these bundled services also experience greater economic mobility.

FUTURE Community School Structure

Three Higher Ground staff members perform the following roles at each community school site:

- **Community School Director (CSD)** will implement a menu of needs-driven, high-quality programs and services in adherence with the community school model, including but not limited to SEL skill building sessions, expanded learning opportunities, health services, family engagement adult education, direct material assistance, and interventions targeted to chronically absent students and other populations as identified by Higher Ground and vision of the school principal. The CSD manages staffing and serves as a liaison between the community school services and academic staff, principal, and parents. This director will also serve as the site supervisor for Americorps members assigned at the school.
- **Americorps Community School Coordinator** provides assessment and ongoing tracking of individual students.
- **Americorps Resource Navigators** coordinates transportation, social services, after-school programming, and partner organizations serving at each school.

Current Numbers

- # of Chronically Absent students - 1911
- # of students currently being served from chronically absent list - 154

Impact Story

- Devin D. Moss is the AmeriCorps VISTA serving at C.E. Rose PreK-8th in Tucson, Arizona to reduce chronic absences for 6th-8th graders. Devin was awarded funding to purchase a worm-composting bin for the school. He focused on event planning and resource building for the school. He was also instrumental in assisting with the Love of Reading month activities where local celebrities were invited to campus to read to students. He continued to work with the 18 families who participated in the Strengthening Families Program through the Arizona Parents Commission and the Governor's Office for Youth, Faith, and Families.