ALTERNATIVES TO SCHOOL CLOSURES

(Because you can’t improve a closed school.)

KEY STRATEGIES

- Well-prepared and effective teachers who can support diverse learners.
- Wraparound academic, social/emotional, & health supports to help students stay on track.
- Positive discipline policies that keep students in school, safe, and learning.
- Engaged parents & communities that are invested in the school’s success and foster partnerships between the school, local businesses, and non-profits.

Universal access to pre-K so that every child is ready to learn when they enter school and no one starts behind.

Equitable school funding so that schools in low-income communities can be equipped with resources & supports.

Expanded Learning Time including after-school programs, internships, and community service.

Examples of Supports

EDUCATORS

- More support staff
- Strong PTAs
- Student peer mediation groups
- Student voice on school board

STUDENTS & FAMILIES

- Universal access to pre-K
- Achievement gap between Black & white students narrowed from 14.5% in 2003 to 1.2% in 2010

COMMUNITY

- School-based Clinics
- Healthcare Providers
- Police
- Law Enforcement
- Local Businesses
- Mentoring & Internships
- Stopping suspensions

POLICY MAKERS

- Fair education budgeting

Alternatives in Action

CINCINNATI, OH COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS
- Graduation rates up from 51% in 2000 to 82% in 2010
- Achievement gap between Black & white students narrowed from 14.5% in 2003 to 1.2% in 2010

OAKLAND, CA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
- Number of schools with after-school programs rose from 32 to 90
- 10x more children with access to summer school
- School-based health clinics

EVANSVILLE, IN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
- 27% more students meet early literacy benchmarks
- 79% of 2010 grads pursued post-secondary education, above state average

HARTFORD, CT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
- Reading proficiency +10% since 2009
- After-school programs proven to maintain and increase math, reading, & writing performance

LEARN MORE & TAKE ACTION:
www.otlcampaign.org

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www.communityschools.org