Community Schools
A Collective Response to Trauma in Our Schools and Communities
What do schools have to do with ACES?

1. Trauma impacts schools

2. Schools can impact trauma
What is a way that schools can mitigate ACEs?

What is a way that schools can exacerbate ACEs?
Community Schools
A comprehensive approach to trauma and ACEs
6 Essential Strategies for Community Schools

- Curriculum
- Teaching
- Wrap-around Services
- Restorative Practices
- Engagement
- Leadership

4 Mechanisms to Implement Community School Strategies

- Asset and Needs Assessments
- Strategic Planning
- Partners
- Coordinator
Selecting a Model In Las Cruces
Lynn Community Middle School
Launching Community School Process
Ribbon Cutting at Lynn Middle School
Community Priorities

- Student Survey
- Staff Survey
- Family Survey
- Community Canvassing
- Family “Cookie Chats” and Phone Calls
- Staff Focus Groups and Interviews
- Student Focus Groups
In January 2017, Lynn initiated the community school strategy. The first step of the community school process is a deep community assessment.

Lynn surveyed over 450 students, over 300 parents, and all staff. The surveys addressed school governance, community assets, needs of students and families, curriculum and instruction, school discipline, family engagement, and more.

In addition to surveys, over 800 stakeholders were involved in subsequent focus groups and interviews. Over 50 Lynn stakeholders spent over 350 hours developing and implementing
Community Schools Respond to Trauma in 3 Ways

• 1. Promote wrap-around services and a variety of partnerships that connect students and communities to resources and provide case management to navigate fractured systems of support

• 2. Promote a restorative and trauma-informed approach to school climate

• 3. Mobilize school and community resources to remove the conditions that create and perpetuate trauma
Wrap-around services and Community Partnerships

Mental, Physical, Dental Health
After-School Programming
Family Center
OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

• JARC Case Management
• Mentorships: STARS; HAZLO; MARIPOSA
• Memorial Medical Center Residency
Restorative and Trauma-Informed Climate

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking about at the time?
3. What have your thoughts been since the incident?
4. Who do you think has been affected by your actions? In what way were they affected?
5. What do you need to do now to make things right?

Restorative Practice in School

www.elsa-support.co.uk
Images from My cute graphics
Serious Infractions at Lynn down from 73 to 29 from August-Nov 2017 to August-November 2018

“Restorative Practices keep students in school, learning, rather than removing them for suspension or expulsion…”
The 12 Tools
Breathing Tool
Quiet/Safe Place Tool
Listening Tool
Empathy Tool
Personal Space Tool
Using Our Words Tool
Garbage Can Tool
Taking Time Tool
Please & Thank You Tool
Apology & Forgiveness Tool
Patience Tool
Courage Tool
Community Mobilization

• What are the systemic social issues that cause/perpetuate trauma? How can schools take on these issues?
• Benjamin Franklin High School
• ENLACE/CFSNM/Emp. Congress
Proven results of community schools

National studies have found that strong community schools have:

- higher student attendance
- higher graduation rates and lower dropout rates
- higher reading and math scores
- improved school climate, including teacher morale and student behavior
- greater parent engagement
- lower rates of neighborhood crime and violence.
Organizing Community Schools

• What’s stopping every school from becoming a community school?
Organizing Community Schools

• 1. Elevator Pitch for you school
• 2. Designing Needs and Asset Assessment
• 3. Potential Programs and Services
Community Schools in the Face of Yazzie

• Las Cruces Partnership for Community Schools
• Kentucky’s FRYSCs