

Moving Forward with Community Schools Aligning Goals, Strategies, & Actions in Richmond

Meg Fransee

The California Endowment, Healthy Richmond

ISSUE

In 2009 Richmond was selected as a Building Healthy Communities (BHC) site by the California Endowment, a ten-year statewide initiative. Healthy Richmond Hub is designed to support positive outcome strategies, including health equity for Richmond students.

With the 2013 introduction of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the West Contra Costa School District, Healthy Richmond, the City of Richmond, and other stakeholders have been strategizing around how the LCFF can benefit underserved students through the implementation of a Full Service Community School model (FSCS). The district submitted an Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the 2014-15 school year, and is currently drafting the 2015-17 which identified 2014-15 LCAP actions.



Youth-led school board candidates forum in Richmond.

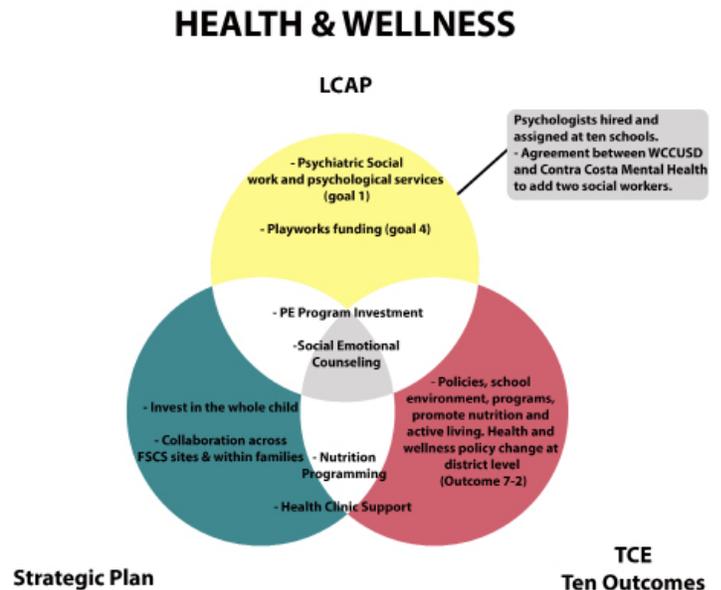
METHODS

By using the 2015-16 LCAP draft, the WCCUSD's Strategic Plan, the California Endowment's Ten Outcomes, and the City of Richmond's General Plan, three FSCS policy areas were assessed for goal, strategy, and action alignment:

	WCCUSD		Healthy Richmond	City of Richmond	
	2015-16 LCAP Draft	WCCUSD Strategic Plan	TCE 10 Outcomes	City of Richmond General Plan	
Health & Wellness	Goal 4 & 1	Objective 18	Outcome 7-2	Element 2 & 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Climate & Culture • Student Health & Wellness • Community Engagement
Climate & Culture	Goal 4 & 2	Objective 20 & 23	Outcome 7-1	Element 2	
Community Engagement	Goal 3	Objective 13,14, 15,19,22	Outcome 7-1, 7-3, & 7-4	Element 2	

FINDINGS

- Significant goal alignment in community engagement, but misalignment in strategies implemented.** The district's actions for increased community engagement have focused on town hall meetings, whereas Healthy Richmond has used participatory budgeting and parent trainings to engage students and families in LCFF planning.
- Stakeholders aligned in goal of increasing social emotional support for students through school-based mental health staff,** although there is a lack of clarity on the exact number of support staff at each school. This makes it difficult to assess the progress of FSCS implementation in terms of health & wellness
- In terms of goal alignment, Restorative Justice (RJ) practices are a shared goal of WCCUSD and Healthy Richmond for Culture & Climate.** It is more difficult, however, to assess strategy or action alignment because both the 2014-15 and 2015-16 LCAP present RJ in a grouping with other school culture programming.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand participatory budgeting process to facilitate LCAP engagement.
- Incorporate community outreach practices into leadership advisory committee goals and strategies.
- Analyze alignment of funding streams with strategic goals for all stakeholders.

JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Collectively invest financial and staff resources to support planning, collaboration and data usage** among WCCUSD, Cities of Richmond + San Pablo, Healthy Richmond, Contra Costa & Other Partners. Effective community schools work is a true community undertaking. The impact of these agencies together will be greater than that of any agency working alone.
- Data Support:** Investigate options for shared data platforms and analytic support from UC Berkeley or other partners. Especially with the UC Berkeley expansion into Richmond Bay, there may be exciting opportunities for collaboration around research and data support.
- Community Engagement:** Collectively attend trainings and share engagement strategies among partner agencies. The City of Richmond and local community based organizations have a long history of meaningful community engagement, and this is an exciting area of growth for the district.