



# Community Schools: A Strategy, Not a Program

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**Jane Quinn**

Assistant Executive Director for Community Schools  
The Children's Aid Society



# Brief Organizational Background

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- The Children's Aid Society is the oldest and largest youth organization in NYC
- Historic and current commitment is comprehensive service to low-income children
- Major program focus areas = child welfare, youth development and health
- Community schools are now a permanent line of our work (one of five service divisions)

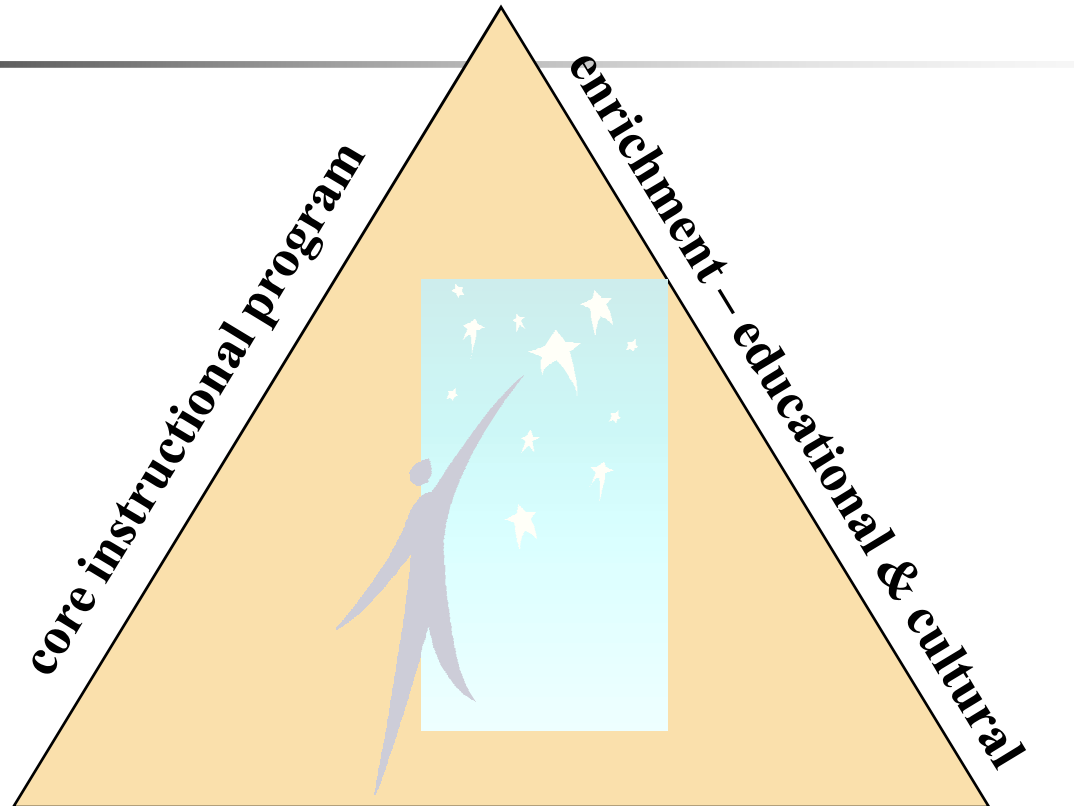


# Our Role in Community Schools

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- Direct service: operating 22 community schools in NYC, in partnership with the Department of Education
- Advocacy: active at city, state and Federal levels (through Coalition for Community Schools and other groups)
- Technical assistance: since 1994, have operated the National Technical Assistance Center for Community Schools

# Developmental Triangle



**removing barriers to learning & development**

- health
- dental
- mental health
- social services



# Research Base

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- Making the Most of Non-school Time
  - *Reginald Clark*
  - *Milbrey McLaughlin*
  - *Deborah Vandell*
- Enrichment & Developmental Domains
  - *Resiliency theory*
  - *James Comer*
- Parents' Active Role
  - *Epstein & Henderson*
  - *Epstein – middle school findings*
- Coordinated Services
- Caring Adults in Child's Life
  - *Fritz Ianni*
  - *Jacquelyn Eccles*



# Key Program Components

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- After-School and Summer Enrichment
- Parent Involvement
- Adult Education
- Medical, Dental, Mental Health and Social Services
- Early Childhood
- Community and Economic Development



## Results of CAS Community Schools

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- Improved academic performance
- Higher attendance rates
- Positive school climate
- Improved school safety
- Greater parent involvement
- Improved student-teacher relationships
- Teachers able to focus on education



# Technical Assistance

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- Host 600-700 visits per year to our New York community schools
- Provide consultation and training to schools, districts, community organizations, funders, policymakers
- Develop tools and materials, including two books on community schools
- Share best practices nationally and internationally



# Supportive Federal Policies

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- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers
- Full-Service Community Schools Act
- Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health and mental health services
- Federal Youth Coordination Act
- Safe Schools, Healthy Students
- Child Care Development Block Grants