



School District No. 36 (Surrey)
Keeping Learners at the Centre



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Community – Schools Partnership Initiative

The Community-Schools Partnership Initiative (C-SP), spearheaded by School District 36 (Surrey) and the City of Surrey, draws together the expertise and resources of key public and community agencies serving children, youth and families in Surrey. Using schools as neighbourhood focal points, the C-SP seeks to:

- weave together an array of local services and resources for children, youth and families
- provide connections to the broader network of city-wide services
- build a sense of neighborhood identity
- promote lifelong learning and overall community liveability

In the long term, it is envisaged that C-SP will be a city-wide initiative. Initially, however, C-SP will focus on 3 clusters of inner-city schools in Guildford, Whalley and Newton, in recognition that families living in these areas often face particular difficulties accessing the services or supports they need.

Starting April 2007, a team of C-SP Co-ordinators will work with the selected schools and neighbourhood representatives to develop specific partnership projects that fit with the overall C-SP vision, building on local strengths and meeting local needs. Projects may focus on such themes as early childhood development, family involvement, parenting support, youth development/leadership, community-based learning, inter-cultural understanding, neighbourhood safety and community engagement, but it is understood that each project will reflect the uniqueness and diversity of the local neighbourhood.

VISION

A caring, vibrant, sustainable city known for its thriving children and youth, healthy families, community-centred schools, safe neighbourhoods and inter-cultural cohesion.

MISSION

Members of the C-SP are committed to working together to build community through an alignment of resources, improved access to neighbourhood and city-wide services, innovative partnerships, and a new spirit of collaboration and sense of vision amongst residents, agencies and businesses in Surrey.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Inclusiveness:** The C-SP processes will strive to reflect the diversity of assets, needs and experiences, by engaging and involving students, families and community members in each participating neighbourhood.
- **Honoring the voice and involvement of children and youth:** The C-SP Initiative will promote the active involvement of children and youth; listening to their experiences and views and taking these into consideration in decision-making processes.
- **Respectful relationships:** All participants involved in C-SP share the responsibility of building, modeling, and maintaining respectful and transparent relationships with other partners and stakeholders.
- **Collaboration** Through the C-SP Initiative, schools and community agencies work together as partners seeking value-added solutions and sharing learnings.
- **Responsiveness:** The C-SP Initiative is based upon an understanding that public institutions exist to serve the public and are obligated to develop programs and services that address continuously changing public needs and interests.
- **Build upon strengths existing in schools and communities:** C-SP services and supports are asset based, accessible and linked to or based in schools
- **Sharing of expertise and resources:** The C-SP initiative seeks to use school and community physical, financial, and human resources to address student, family and community needs
- **Local mobilization and decision-making:** The C-SP Initiative maintains that local people have a right and a responsibility to be involved in determining community needs and identifying resources that can be used to address those needs.
- **Self-help and leadership development:** The C-SP Initiative recognizes that people are best served when their capacity to help themselves is acknowledged and developed. When people work together to assume responsibility for their own well-being, they build resilience, self reliance, inter-dependence and become part of the solution.
- **Sustainability:** Through strategic collaboration, alignment of resources and a focus on do-able, community responsive projects and activities that add to the integration of services at a neighbourhood level, the C-SP Initiative seeks to achieve sustainability.

COMMUNITY – SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mandate:

The Community – Schools Partnership Committee (C-SPC), co-chaired by senior representatives from the School District and the City:

- is the holder of the collective C-SP vision
- provides oversight leadership, strategic direction and support to facilitate the ongoing development, implementation and accountability of the initiative.

Key functions:

- ensuring that the implementation of the C-SP Initiative at the city- wide, hub and school levels is in sync with the overall Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles
- promoting the C-SP Initiative as an innovative approach to community building;
- building relationships and communicating with existing and potential C-SP partners and stakeholders

- monitoring changes in public policy and funding mechanisms that have implications for the work of the C-SP Initiative at the city-wide, hub and school levels
- identifying opportunities that will move forward the C-SP Vision
- providing advice and direction to the C-SP Co-ordinator team
- problem solving issues and removing systemic barriers that are identified as a result of the work and activities at the local school and hub levels;
- developing new inter-agency protocols as required to facilitate the C-SP work
- ensuring a coherent and collaborative approach to resource development to avoid unhealthy competition for resources amongst local agencies;
- developing and implementing an overall evaluation framework;
- monitoring, celebrating, and communicating the outcomes of the C-SP approach

Staff support will be provided by the C-SP Co-ordinator team and consultants as required.

Structure:

Membership: 12 – 16 members

- 3 School District representatives designated by the Superintendent’s Office
- 3 City representatives from Parks and Recreation, Planning, & Surrey Library
- representation from the following organizations or coalitions:
 - United Way
 - Ministry of Children and Family Development
 - Fraser Health
 - Surrey RCMP
 - Surrey Children and Youth Committee
 - Surrey Family Connection Collaborative
 - Surrey/White Rock Make Children First
 - Surrey Middle Years Matters
 - Vibrant Surrey (potential addition)
 - Surrey Board of Trade (potential addition)

It is understood that a member may be invited to join the C-SP Committee to represent and/or liaise with more than one of the above organizations or coalitions.

Committee Leadership:

The Committee will be co-chaired by a representative from the School District and one from the City of Surrey.

The C-SP Committee co-chairs are responsible for inviting potential members to join the committee and to appoint a new representative if a member is not able to regularly contribute to the committee.

Term:

Participation on C-SPC is initially by invitation of the co-chairs based on the membership criteria outlined below. However it is anticipated that by the end of two years, a formal Memorandum of Understanding will be developed amongst the various partners clearly outlining roles and identifying the terms and conditions of participation.

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Sub-committees/working groups:

The Committee may from time to time decide to strike sub-committees and/or working groups to examine a particular issue in more detail. The scope, membership and term will be defined as required.

Operating Procedures

Procedures:

The C-SP C will make its own procedures, including the appointment of a chairperson and secretary, frequency and location of meetings, minutes of meetings, appointment of alternative representatives and requirements for attendance and participation at meetings, beyond what is outlined in this document.

Quorum:

A quorum will include at least one representative from the School District and the City of Surrey and four other committee members. Should a quorum be lacking for a particular decision, those not present will be contacted to request their consent to the decision. A positive reply from those members will be considered part of the quorum and will be so noted in the minutes.

Meetings may be held in person, by conference call or through e-mail consultation

Decision-making:

Decision-making will be done through consensus whenever possible. If a vote is deemed necessary by the co-chairs to move a particular issue forward, then a simple majority of those in attendance is required.

Confidentiality:

It is the goal of the C-SP committee to be as open and transparent as possible, however from time to time there may be information which is considered confidential. Each committee member has a duty to keep confidential any information which is identified as such. Such information should be considered confidential within the membership of the C-SP Committee.

Conflict of Interest:

It is recognized that because of the collaborative nature of the C-SP Initiative, there is considerable likelihood that C-SP committee discussions and decisions may be made that benefit all or some of the organizations in the room. It is thus understood that it is the responsibility of members to declare upfront any personal or organizational conflict of interest and for the co-chairs to decide whether it is necessary for the particular member(s) to leave the room while the specific matter is being considered. Departure and return of a member will be noted in the minutes in these cases.