

Community Services Update

October 20, 2026

Wendy Webster

Executive Director of Community Services and Human Resources

Objectives

- Purpose of Community Services
- Policy 901
- Funding for Community Services
- Overview of our Community Services Programs and Goals



[Coded]

An act establishing a community school program; appropriating money therefor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. **[121.85] EDUCATION; COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAMS; APPROPRIATION; PURPOSE.** The purpose of this act is to make maximum use of the public schools of Minnesota by the community and to expand utilization by the school of the human resources of the community, by establishing a community school program.

Our Purpose since 1971

The purpose of Community Education Programs is to make maximum use of the public schools by the community and to expand utilization by the school of the human resources of the community.

PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION
PROGRAMS, Minn. Stat. § 124D.18 (2024)



Policy 901: Community Education



I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to convey to employees and to the general public the important role of community education within the school district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board affirms a strong commitment to the community education program. The school board welcomes, and strongly encourages use of school buildings and activity areas by the community when not used for regularly scheduled elementary and secondary programs. The school administration should strive to accomplish the following objectives:

- A. Maximum use should be made of public school facilities within the school district service area.
- B. Educational needs and interest of area residents should be determined periodically.
- C. Community resources and expertise of residents should be utilized to develop a vibrant, well-rounded community education program.
- D. Area residents should be encouraged to actively participate in program opportunities.

How does Community Services serve SANB?



Programs:

Early Childhood
Family Education
(ECFE)

Family Learning

Preschool

Early Childhood
Screening

EC Special Education

Village Kids

Aquatics

**We create
communities of
belonging for
children, parents
and adults in our
community.**



Classes:

Youth Enrichment

Adult Recreation
and Enrichment

Senior Citizens

Services:

Schedule Use of
School District &
City Facilities

How is Community Services Funded?



Revenue in 2025-26 Budget: \$2,000,000

State Aid: 12%

Early Childhood
Screening

ECFE

School Readiness

Early Childhood
Scholarships

Community Education

Local Tax Levy: 8%

Community Education
SAC Special Needs
ECFE



User Fees: 80%

City Contribution since
2001: \$52,176 is
directed toward salary
of CS Coordinator who
plans senior and adult
programming.

Our Values at Community Services



Teamwork

We cannot do this work
alone; we need each
other.

Caring

We are a school that
cares deeply for all
children, families and
one another.



Belonging

We are a school
where children and
adults can show up
as their selves and
feel valued as they
learn new skills and
grow.



Early Childhood

- Early Childhood Screening
- Help Me Grow Referrals
- Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Family Learning
- Early Childhood Special Education
- All Day and Half Day Preschool

Early Childhood Instructional Goals

- Incorporating our Literacy training into early childhood instruction
- Communicating essential learning targets with students and documenting learning of skills
- Reviewing data to improve instructional practices and outcomes for all students





Four Essential Elements for Literacy Success

Critical step is changing
our instructional practices
to improve student
outcomes



**TEACHES SCIENCE
OF READING**



**CONVERTS RESEARCH
TO PRACTICE**



**ENHANCES TEACHER
EFFECTIVENESS**



**TRANSFORMS
INSTRUCTION**

Family Engagement Goals



- Three Family Nights a Year
227 people attended Fall Family Night
“At my townhouse, everyone just goes into their houses and closes the door. Here, when we are all together, I can see that there are so many families just like mine”
- Early Childhood Parent Advisory Council
- Weekly communication to help parents learn about Essential Learning Targets in ECFE and Preschool





Youth Programs

Village Kids served 161 students in the 25-26 School Year

Village Kids served 159 students in 2025 and 2026 Summer programs

Youth Enrichment Classes

- 1638 youth in early childhood through age 18 participated in Youth Enrichment classes and camps and Aquatics classes from July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026



Adult and Senior Programs

In 2025-26, 781 adults participated in adult enrichment and recreation classes.

Our focus is classes led by local instructors to make connections among adults in our community

- Collaborate with Silverwood Park on shared programming
- Senior luncheons with entertainment provided by high school choir
- Third year of our monthly caregiver support group

Use of Community-Owned Spaces

Facility Use from
July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026



- **Residential district groups** utilized our school and city facilities for **49,606 hours (92%)**
- **Out of district groups** used our school and city facilities for **4,537 hours (8%)**
- **54,143 total hours**
(this does not count school district use)



What could the School Board do to support Community Services?

Remind our staff and broader community of the value of Community Services utilizing community-owned spaces for classes and programs.

Why is this important?

In polling conducted in other communities in 2025, community members *who participate in Community Education classes*, as a group, **vote yes** for school district referendums 14 points higher than those who don't participate in CE classes.

Community members begin to see schools as 'our schools' and have a collective responsibility.



Questions

