

AN ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community-based schooling has been implemented by districts around the U.S. Within this context, community partners work with school officials to provide both parents and students outside resources that they otherwise would not have within a traditional school setting. A Community School acts as a base for students and community members to access resources similar to a community center. While every district implements Community Schools differently, there are two universal aspects that are important for community-based models: trust and partnerships. Within this report, those two aspects are explored and analyzed - specifically within the Madison Metropolitan School District. MMSD and other districts have reaped many external benefits of a community school framework, however the true quantitative effects of community schools overall on reducing educational inequality have yet to be determined. Research has been performed on an individual district level; however since every district implements a community-based approach differently, overall conclusions across districts cannot be made. This report acknowledges that fact and advises other districts that Community Schools could be of benefit, but the research does not necessarily back up that anecdotal conclusion yet.