

The Ensemble Full Service Community Schools Project
Bensenville School District #2

ABSTRACT

Bensenville School District #2 (Northwest Chicago suburban community school district) -- in partnership with a consortium of community partners: Metropolitan Family Services, Bensenville Public Library, Bensenville Park District, Opportunities for All, the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Instituto Grafico de Chicago, Mindful Practices, College of DuPage, and DuPage County Health Department--proposes a five-year *Ensemble* project for three low-income, Title I community schools in suburban Chicago; namely, Tioga Elementary School (PreK-5th grade), W A Johnson Elementary School(K-5th grade), and Blackhawk Middle School(grades 6-8) within a predominantly Latino, working class community. The target population includes 4,200 students (two cohorts of 2,100), 50 teachers and 2,000 parents over five years. *Ensemble* is a collaborative, evidence-based full service community schools model, designed to provide five pipe-line services including, (1) high-quality early childhood education programs, (2) high-quality school and out-of-school time programming, (3) support for a child's transition into elementary->middle school->high-school on to post-secondary education and the workplace, (4) family and community engagement supports for at-home student learning, and (5) social, health, nutrition and mental health services and supports. Expected outcomes include: (1) developing a collaborative culture to support community schools, (2) preparing Pre-K students adequately for kindergarten through increased parent workshops and home visits, (3) increasing project students competencies in the areas of reading and mathematics through authentic teaching and learning and the arts, (4) providing an early warning program for monitoring and tracking the performance of project students so that they can successfully transition across educational levels and into the workforce, (5) enabling families to effectively provide academic and social supports to their children, both in school and at home, and (6) increasing students ability to successfully acquire social and emotional skills, fitness, optimal health, and mental health well-being.